



Lawn care guide - Watering



Water no more than twice a week in the dry and never when it's wet

1

If you want a strong lawn you have to adjust your watering according to the changing conditions through the year. Grass has different needs depending on the weather.

2

Townsville lawns need no more than 25mm of water per week during the dry season and none at all during the wet.

3

Lawns are most stressed from September to December when the soil loses the most water from evaporation.

4

Townsville has some of the highest pan evaporation rates in Australia. We lose approximately 2.88 meters of water per year just from evaporation.

5

Think about planting more trees if you can. They are a great way to reduce the size of your lawn, promote cooler breezes and save on water.

Also, shading the western wall of your home can make a big difference to how cool your home is which will save you money on your power bill.

6

It's important to train your lawn to be tough to handle periods of heat and water stress. To do this it needs strong roots. A deep soaking less often grows strong roots and reduces weeds.

7

Watering more than twice a week will weaken your lawn, giving it shallow and fragile roots.

8

Overwatering your lawn could encourage weeds to grow because excess water keeps emerging seeds moist. More weeds mean your grass has to fight for water.

9

Townsville typically receives more than enough rainfall from December to March for a well-trained lawn to thrive.

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Clay soils are very common in Townsville and can only absorb small amounts of water at time. A low flow sprinkler is the best choice for most local lawns.

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Watering when the sun is up reduces the amount of water that makes it to the soil up to 50%. It's best to water at night after your lawn has cooled.

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Short periods without water can improve your lawn by encouraging it to grow slower. Try gradually increasing the length of time between watering to achieve one good soak per week when it's dry.

13

Once you've nailed the perfect timings for using your sprinklers, a tap timer is a great way to make sure you're giving your lawn the perfect amount of water.

14

Consider how much lawn you really need. Growing your own fruit and vegetables or planting trees and shrubs can greatly reduce your water and electricity usage, and can save you at the supermarket as well.

15

Make sure you're following the current water conservation measures and encourage others to do the same. This will make sure we all have enough water for the future and delays any further restrictions.

How much water should I be using?

Did you know that more than 70% of Townsville's water is used on residential lawns and gardens?

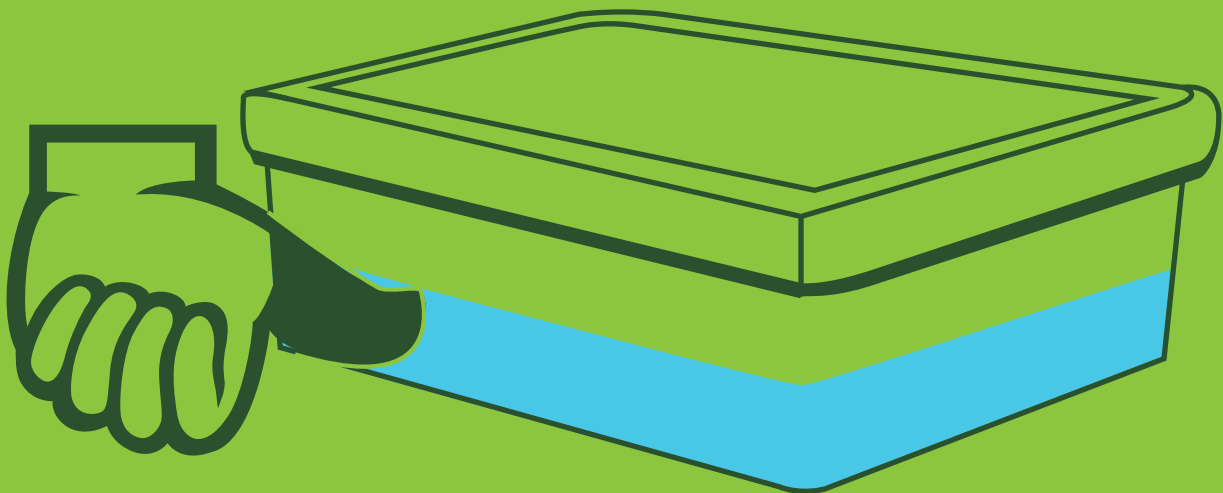
Most of this water usage can be reduced by getting the basics right by knowing your soil, choosing the right turf for your conditions, and training your lawn to grow strong roots. All irrigation systems, sprinklers, and hoses water at different rates.

Knowing how much water you need for your lawn means you can work out when and how long you need to water.

As a general rule, Townsville lawns need 25mm of water per week when it's dry. This should be applied slowly over one or two waterings per week.

There's a simple way to work out how fast your sprinkler is watering. Just time how long it takes to fill a container to 25mm with your sprinkler irrigation system or hose, and use that as a guide for planning your weekly watering schedule.

How to check my rule of thumb (25mm)



Time how long it takes to fill a couple of containers to 25mm under your different sprinklers.

Technical note: watering in the heat of the day can reduce the amount of water reaching your soil by up to 50% compared to early morning or late afternoon!

A guide to some sprinklers



10 litres per minute
(15m diameter)








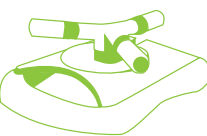



19 litres per minute
(12m diameter)



22 litres per minute
(8m diameter)

Sprinkler cheat sheet

SPRINKLER TYPE/NAME	IMAGE	LITRES PER MINUTE	COVERAGE AREA	APPLICATION RATE mm/h
WOBBLE-T		10L/min	approx. 190m ²	3.8mm/h
ROTOFRAME 1/2"		19.2L/min	approx. 79m ²	14.7mm/h
5 FUNCTION SPRINKLER		17.4L/min	approx. 64m ²	16.41mm/h
CANBERRA SPRINKLER		18.8L/min	approx. 113m ²	9.97mm/h
PARTNER (or Rose) SPRINKLER		up to 24L/min	approx. 28m ² -50m ²	26.74 - 50.29mm/h
HANDY SPRINKLER		34.6L/min	approx. 50m ²	41.3 mm/h
TRACTOR SPRINKLER		13.8L/min	approx. 50m ² (stationary)	26.74mm/h
ROTARY SLED SPRINKLER		6.9L/min	approx. 79m ²	5.27mm/h
3 ARM SLED SPRINKLER		19.4L/min	approx. 50m ²	23.16mm/h
RAINWAVE		18.1L/min	approx. 168m ²	6.46mm/h

Why low flow?

LARGE DROPLET SIZES

DROPLET ANGLE

SLOW SOAKING RATE

PROMOTES STRONG ROOTS

SAVES WATER

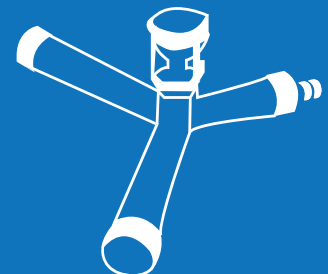
COVERS LARGE AREA

CAN SAVE TIME

MODULAR

SUITABLE FOR LOW PRESSURES

AUSTRALIAN MADE



10 Litres per minute
(15m diameter)