

Lawn Watering

Massachusetts generally has enough rainfall to naturally supply the needs of most healthy mature lawns with good soil, without the need for watering. Watering, if necessary, should be done to re-moisten the root zone (4-6 inches). The amount will depend on the soil and other site factors. A general rule of thumb is one-inch per week including rain. Lawn watering should be outside the hours of 9AM and 5PM to minimize water loss due to evaporation. Avoid watering at night to avoid disease outbreaks to the lawn. Watering should be done slowly and deeply, avoiding pooling. Directing rainfall runoff from downspouts onto the pervious lawn areas instead of impervious driveways and collection of the runoff from the roofs into rain barrels is recommended. Automatic irrigation systems must have rain sensors and should have a rain shut-off device to prevent watering during rain events. The best setting for an irrigation system is “off”, turning it on only when needed.