

# **Irrigation System Tune-Up Tips**

**Is your irrigation system ready for an efficient watering season? A properly functioning, well-maintained system will keep your landscape healthy while making every drop count! Here are a few tips to make sure your system is ready to go:**



- Look for and repair leaks and broken spray heads.
- Remove plant material (moss, grass or foliage) that has grown over or is blocking spray heads.
- Adjust spray heads to avoid watering the street, driveways or sidewalks.
- Improve scheduling to increase irrigation efficiency:
  - Avoid watering when it rains or install a rain shutoff device to do it for you.
  - Water early in the day (before 9 a.m.) to reduce water lost to evaporation.
  - Adjust your watering schedule at least monthly to match weather conditions. Plants need much less water in May and September than in July and August.
  - Water according to plant needs. Lawns need only 1” of water per week (including rainfall) to stay green during July and August, and half that much in May and September. Most shrubs and perennials require much less water than grass, especially in shady areas. Cut back or eliminate watering well-established trees and shrubs (2-5 years old), except in very dry years.
  - Water plant roots deeply but infrequently to build deeper, healthier roots. Dig into the soil after watering to see if moisture has penetrated to the roots. Use what you learn to guide future watering.
  - Reduce scheduling to eliminate water run-off. If runoff occurs soon after watering begins, you may need a controller that allows you to “cycle and soak,” that is, break one watering period into two or three events with time in between to allow the water enough time to penetrate the soil.

***Thanks for making every drop count!  
For more information, call Cascade Water Alliance at 425-453-0930.***