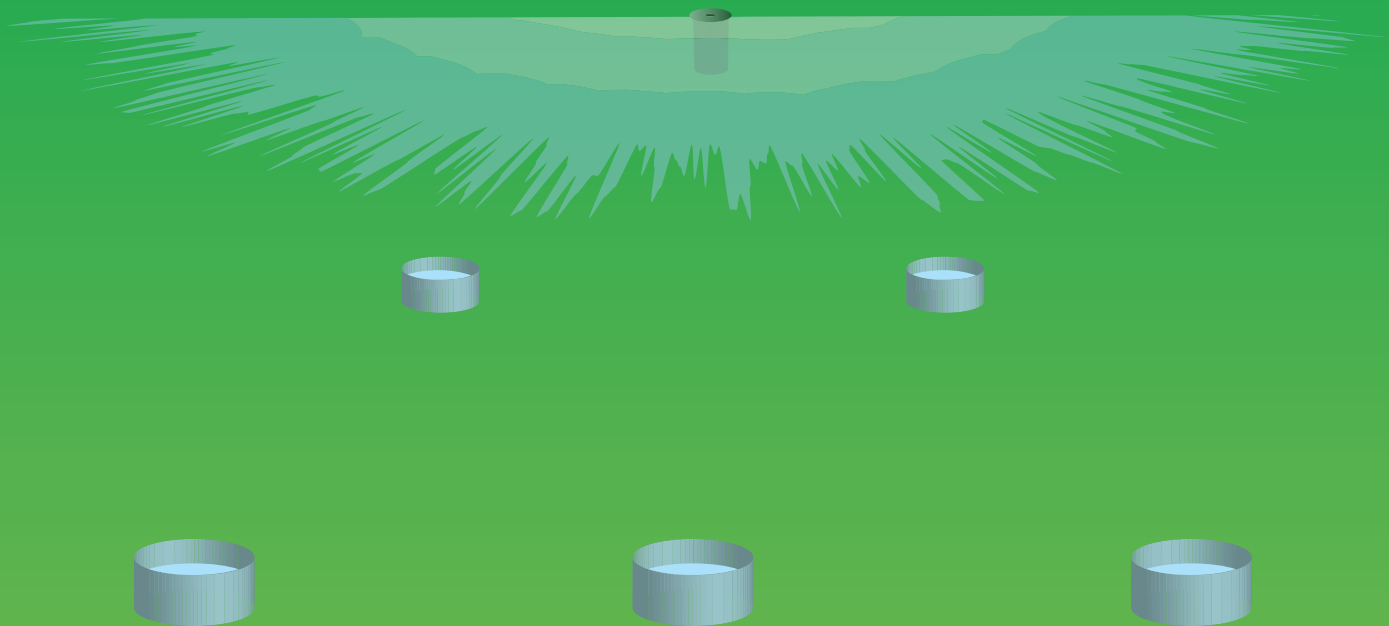




Florida Automated Weather Network **FACTSHEET**

Application Rate



FAWN FACTS: Calculating Application Rate

Knowing how much water your irrigation system applies to your landscape is crucial, not only to its efficient operation, but to conserving water as well. Properly setting your time clock requires knowledge of your system's *application rate* - the amount of water the system applies over a specified period of time - to ensure the proper amount of water is applied. Follow the steps below to calculate your system's application rate to ensure your system is giving your landscape the correct amount of water.



Place cans. If you have an in-ground system, randomly place 5-10 small straight-sided cans in each zone (it is important to check each one individually, because application rates can vary among zones). If you use a hose-end sprinkler, place several cans from the sprinkler unit in a straight line toward end of the watering pattern.

Turn on the water. Operate each zone (or hose-end sprinkler) for 15 minutes.

Measure the amount of water collected in each can. Measure the amount of water collected in each can (a form is available on the FAWN website to assist you in organizing your calculations).



Calculate average amount collected. Once you measure the amount collected in each can, calculate the average amount collected by dividing the total amount collected in all cans by the number of cans.

Calculate application rate. Once you have the average amount collected from all cans, simply multiply that number by 4 to get an hourly application rate.

Once you know your system's application rate, you can adjust your time clock (a mechanical timer can work well for hose-end sprinklers) so the system is applying the proper amount of water to your landscape. The table displays system run times (*italics*) based on calculated application rate (left column), and the desired rate (top row). Florida soils generally require 1/2" - 3/4" of water, so no more than this amount should be applied per irrigation event.

SYSTEM RUN TIMES (min)

APPLICATION RATE (in)	DESIRED APPLICATION RATE (in)			
	0.25	0.5	0.75	1
0.25	<i>60</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>240</i>
0.5	<i>30</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>120</i>
0.75	<i>20</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>80</i>
1	<i>15</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>60</i>
1.5	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>40</i>
1.75	<i>9</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>34</i>
2	<i>8</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>30</i>

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