

WATERING SCHEDULES & CONTROLLER PROGRAMMING

This is four-hour class shows participants the basic concepts of scheduling. The class does not go into soil-plant-water relationships or any other technical aspects. This class is designed to make it easy for field personnel to formulate an irrigation schedule and to put that schedule into a controller.

Section 1 - Benefits of Irrigation Scheduling 20 minutes

The first part of class points out the importance of irrigation scheduling and mentions the benefits that come along with proper controller programming. Benefits mentioned in class include:

- Better looking landscape.
- Happier clients.
- Better trained personnel for the landscape company.
- Water savings for the landscape site.

Section 2 - Basics of Watering Schedules 30 minutes

In this section of class, participants are introduced to the main factors that affect a watering schedule for a landscape site. Students are reminded that the basic watering schedule only includes three things:

- Water days
- Minutes of irrigation
- Start time for irrigation

After going through the basics, the class then reviews the scheduling worksheets that will be used later in class to come up with a water schedule for different scenarios. Students are also reminded about the use of different programs when watering different plant materials.

Section 3 - Complete Watering Schedules 1 hr 20 min

In this third section of class, the student is given various scenarios, along with two schedulers. A scheduler is a group of tables that provide number of minutes and days of irrigation per week for a specific plant material. The student is asked to:

- **Identify the correct scheduler** (either an Interior Climate scheduler or Coastal Climate scheduler).
- **Identify the plant material** or description of landscape (is it turf, mixed planters, trees, drought tolerant plants?).
- **Identify irrigation system type** (is it sprayheads, rotors, drip?)

Section 4 - Controller Programming

1 hr 20 min

Once the students practice with the watering schedules, they then take that information and input it into a controller. The classroom will be set up with 4 stations with controllers at each station. The four controller types to be used in class include:

- Irritrol MC-Plus
- Rain Bird ESP
- Calsense ET 2000
- RainMaster Eagle

This exercise is designed to allow the student to practice transferring data from their scheduling worksheet over to the controller. In addition, students are able to work with some of the advanced features that each controller offers along with becoming familiar with the manual operation of the controller.

Section 5 - Water Allotments/Water Budgets

30 minutes

Because many landscape sites in Southern California have been placed on water budgets by their local water purveyor, it's become important for landscape companies to expand their services and provide this type of assistance. This section includes:

- An introduction to water budgets.
- Tips for landscape companies to maintain sites within the water budget.