

The Retic Gurus

Watering schedule to establish a new lawn in Perth

New lawns need to be watered more regularly than established lawns. It will generally take up to 12 months before new lawn has established a deep enough root system to achieve maximum drought tolerance. *Pay attention to the corners, especially those with curved or diagonal edges. These can be difficult to water with retic and therefore tend to dry out sooner. Hand watering of these areas is best during establishment.*

How to apply for a watering exemption: Call 13 10 39 on the day your new lawn or garden is planted. If approved, the exemption will be activated immediately and a letter confirming the terms will be sent out to you. The following watering schedules can be used once an exemption is granted:

Watering exemption between 1 st Oct – 31 st Mar			
Days	Amount*	Frequency	Time of day
1–10	3.5mm	3x daily	Before 9am, at 12 noon and at 3pm
11–20	5.0mm	2x daily	Before 9am and at 3pm
21–28	10.0mm	1x daily	Before 9am
29–42	10.0mm	Every second day	Before 9am
Watering exemption between 1 st Apr – 30 th Sept			
Days	Amount*	Frequency	Time of day
1–14	4.0mm	2x daily	Before 9am and at 2pm
15–28	7.5mm	1x daily	Before 9am
29–35	7.5mm	Every second day	Before 9am

If it rains heavily, turn the retic system off. Too much water and not enough sun can rot your grass.

***How to check water output (“Amount”) from your retic system?** Place an empty ice cream container on the lawn then turn on the sprinklers. Time how long it takes to gather 10mm of water in the bottom of the container. The output will depend upon the type of sprinkler nozzles used and the sprinkler pattern. As a guide:

- Toro 570 Series fixed arc nozzles; Toro Precision nozzles: 10mm in 20-30 min.
- Gear drive sprinklers (e.g. Hunter PGP/PGJ/SRM); Hunter MP Rotators: 10mm in 30-45 min.

Re-programming your Hunter X-Core controller to comply with the water exception schedule

When we install lawn we usually program the ‘new lawn’ watering schedule into the ‘B’ program on the controller. As per the watering exemption charts above, the “Amount”, “Frequency” and “Time of Day” will need to be modified throughout the exemption period. To do this on a Hunter X-Core controller:

Step 1. Press the program button (labeled “PRG”) until ‘B’ appears on the screen.

Step 2. To adjust “TIME OF DAY” and “FREQUENCY”: Turn the large dial to “Start times”. From here you can view up to 4 different start times. To view these press the left or right arrow buttons:

- Start time “1” is usually designated a morning watering start time.
- Start time “2” is the midday start time.
- Start time “3” is the afternoon start time.
- Start time “4” should be “off”.

Select the start time that you need to adjust i.e. 1, 2 or 3. To modify the start time, press either the “+” or “-” buttons. To eliminate a specific start time, press the “+” or “-” buttons until you reach 12:00 AM (Midnight). From here push the “-” button ONCE to reach the OFF position.

Step 3. To adjust “FREQUENCY” to “Every second day”: The ‘B’ program will initially be set to water every day of the week. Days can be de-activated as follows:

1. Ensure the ‘B’ program is selected (see Step 1 above).
2. Turn the dial to Water Days.
3. Select a given day by pressing the left or right arrows until the required day is flashing. Then, de-activate the day by pressing the “-” button.

Step 4. To adjust the “AMOUNT”:

1. Ensure the ‘B’ program is selected (see Step 1 above).
2. Turn the dial to “Run Times”. The screen will display the station number (left side of the LED screen) and the watering time (right side of screen). Press the left or right arrows to select a given station, then press the “+” or “-” buttons to adjust the watering time for that station.

Mowing

Mowing is important in that it strengthens the root system and minimizes thatching. For most turf species, mow every 10-14 days in summer, then every 3-5 weeks in winter. Mow the grass longer in periods of extreme heat, in shady conditions and in late autumn.