

Clay soil in North Texas has difficulty absorbing large amounts of water at one time. The cycle and soak method of irrigation applies water in increments. This allows the soil time to absorb water deep, where plant roots need it. Follow these easy steps to use the cycle and soak method:



> STEP ONE: System Test

Run your system in each zone and time how long it operates until water runs off the landscape. Depending on the type of heads (spray or rotor) in your system, the run time will vary between 3 and 20 minutes. The RUN TIME for each zone may be different.

> STEP TWO: Set Controller

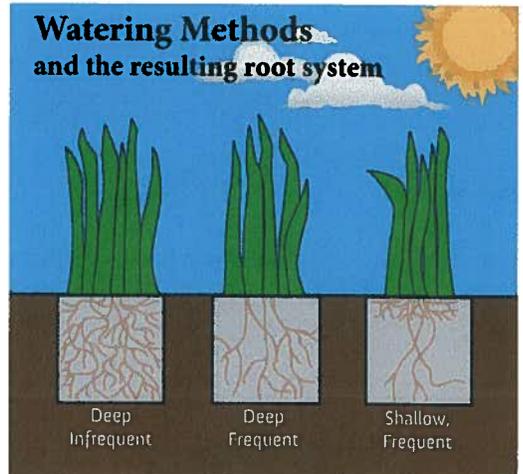
The RUN TIME for each STATION/ZONE is the time you observed during STEP ONE for each zone. The START TIME should begin on your watering day - early enough in the morning to cycle through your system three times before 10 a.m. Program START TIMES to allow approximately one hour between cycles. Here is a sample schedule for a system with four stations/zones - each with a RUN TIME/STATION DURATION of six minutes (time determined during the STEP ONE System Test).

Irrigation System Sample Schedule	ZONE 1	ZONE 2	ZONE 3	ZONE 4	TOTAL RUN TIME
CYCLE 1: Start time: 1 a.m.	6 minutes	6 minutes	6 minutes	6 minutes	24 minutes
CYCLE 2: Start time: 2 a.m.	6 minutes	6 minutes	6 minutes	6 minutes	24 minutes
CYCLE 3: Start time: 3 a.m.	6 minutes	6 minutes	6 minutes	6 minutes	24 minutes

> STEP THREE: Adjust Controller Based on Water Absorption



Observe how your lawn absorbs water and adjust RUN TIMES as needed. Different factors affect how your lawn absorbs water including grass type, slopes, sprinkler head type, system pressure, shade and others.



The most efficient way to water lawns is to apply water infrequently, yet thoroughly. This creates a deep, well-rooted lawn which can use water stored in the soil.