

# PRAIRIE-SMART WATERING

Did you know that Pueblo West residents use an average of 150 gallons of water per day inside and outside their homes? Around half of that goes towards watering lawns and landscapes, and much is wasted due to overwatering.

## TOP 5 TIPS

You can conserve water and reduce your water bill by incorporating these Prairie-Smart Watering practices.



**Water only before 8 am or after 7 pm to reduce water loss from evaporation and wind.**



**Check your sprinklers for leaks, overspray, and misting.**



**Water no more than three days per week.**



**Group plants together based on their water needs to avoid overwatering.**



**Use the "cycle and soak" method to allow water to better penetrate our clay soils.**



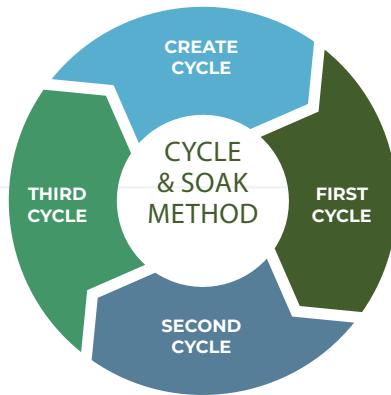
## PRAIRIE-SMART Watering

### CYCLE & SOAK

The "cycle and soak" method breaks up your total watering time into three shorter intervals spaced at least 30 minutes apart.

\*Create your sprinkler timer using three different start times, watering 10 mins per interval, with at least 30 mins. between start times.

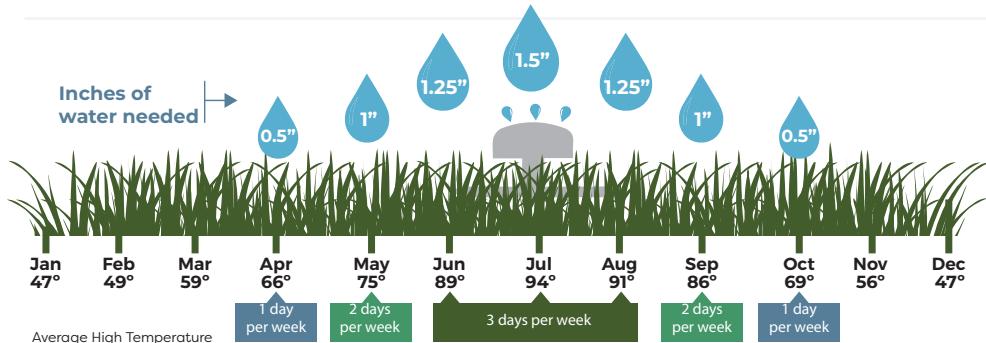
3. The third cycle allows additional absorption, filling the root zones and promoting a healthier landscape.



1. The first cycle breaks the soil's surface tension, allowing water to penetrate.

2. The second cycle is absorbed deeper into the soil, reaching the roots.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD I WATER?



# What You Need to Know... Gardening in Pueblo West

Pueblo West is a wonderful place to call home thanks to nearly 300 days of sunshine per year and a beautiful prairie landscape. Many residents don't know that our unique climate and terrain can also make it more difficult to water our home landscapes appropriately.

*Learn more and follow these  
Prairie-Smart Watering tips.*



## CLIMATE

Pueblo West is an arid region with a prairie landscape consisting of flat grassland with few trees and minimal vegetation. The summers are hot, the winters are cold and dry, and most days are sunny. On average, the region receives only 12 inches of rainfall per year versus the US average of 38 inches per year.

### Top Tips:

- Replace lawn areas with native and drought-tolerant plants.
- Use a rain sensor to avoid watering when it rains.



## SOIL

The soil in Pueblo West is heavy clay. Clay soil tends to hold water for long periods and is prone to erosion. Spots in your yard that stay wet consistently are a sure sign you need to cut back on the amount of water you are applying.

### Top Tips:

- Use the cycle and soak method to allow water to penetrate clay soils.
- To improve your soil, add 6 to 8 inches of organic matter and top off with mulch to help retain soil moisture.



## WIND

Pueblo West is prone to high winds. The windier part of the year lasts for 7 months (from November to June) with average wind speeds of more than 8 miles per hour. In summer, very hot and drying winds speed up evaporation and water loss in plants.

### Top Tips:

- Water before 8 am or after 7 pm when there is less wind.
- Visit [plantselect.org](http://plantselect.org) and [extension.colostate.edu/garden](http://extension.colostate.edu/garden) for drought-tolerant plant lists and other helpful gardening resources.



**PUEBLO WEST**  
*Colorado*



Visit our outdoor conservation  
webpage for more information and tips:  
[www.pueblowestmetro.com/208/Conserve-Water-Outdoors](http://www.pueblowestmetro.com/208/Conserve-Water-Outdoors)