

Water for your landscape

Many people see the landscape as something that compliments the home/facility and the home/facility compliments the landscape, they become one.

Regardless if it is a JOY or a PAIN, it is still an investment that needs some kind of care, upkeep and in general, maintenance. Much of the time the owner may think that the only maintenance needed for the landscape whether it be the lawn or the shrubs, is to water, the more water the better. If it looks funny, give it some water, the more water the better. Many people over water and they want to see the moisture on the soil without regard for what is in the soil and they are protecting the investment.

As we continue the discussion I need to stress that too much water is not good and a waste of time and in regards to what the landscape really needs. More plant material is damaged and/or killed because of too much water rather than not enough water. As mentioned before, we need to know and understand the soil and what it may be made up of and how it retains moisture because of its make-up or because of amendments that may have been added.

The irrigation industry has spent millions of dollars to develop products that will assist in making water use efficient for homeowner and facilities managers. These products include irrigation controllers, mechanical devices, rain/moisture sensors, spray heads and nozzles and design recommendations. Then there is the drip irrigation or sometimes called low volume irrigation industry. Why water the whole area when all you need is to get some moisture to the root system. Drip irrigation involves a network of thin wall tubing that is connected with

compression or barbed fittings, allowing the water to be dispersed via emitters or other miniature control devices.

Standard landscape irrigation application is measured in gallons per minute (GPM), while drip irrigation is applied based on gallons per hour (GPH). Realizing that reading about these things does not allow the information to be fully comprehended, we are developing a hands on program to be presented at the Tsuru Island Resource Center. In partnership with Rainbird and Site One Landscape Supply, product is being gathered for a display that will be available over the next few months. Once the display is available we will schedule workshops that will hopefully make your landscape watering habits more efficient and will allow your investment to grow and thrive to its full potential with the least amount of water needed.

End