



**Flower to the People\***

# IRRIGATION GUIDE

Use this guide to better understand the role of irrigation in maintaining a healthy, climate-resilient polyculture lawn, make decisions about efficient irrigation tactics, and meet water use efficiency goals.



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## IRRIGATION MINIMAL REQUIREMENTS

Efficient irrigation is essential in some climates for ensuring good plant establishment and maintaining appearance and vigor of the polyculture lawn.



Automatic  
Irrigation  
Controller



Rain  
Sensor



6" Minimum  
Sprinkler  
Height



Head-to-Head  
Coverage

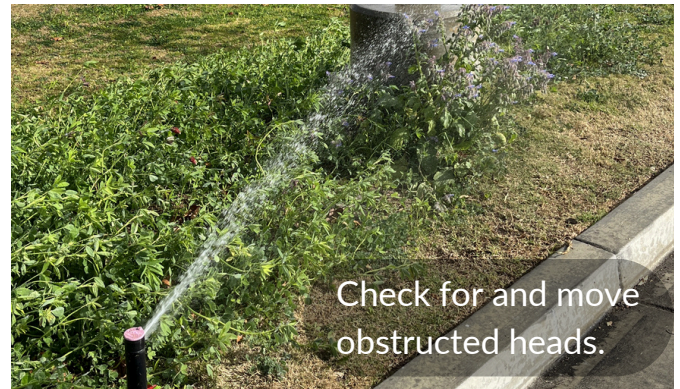
### Irrigation Tip!

Before setting an irrigation schedule, conduct an irrigation tune-up.

## FIX OBSTRUCTED HEADS, WIRING, VALVES & PRESSURE



Ensure head-to-head coverage.



Check for and move obstructed heads.



Pressure regulation is necessary for uniform water application.

### Keep in mind!

Brown, dry patches from underwatering or soggy spots from overwatering can compromise the health and appearance of your polyculture lawn.



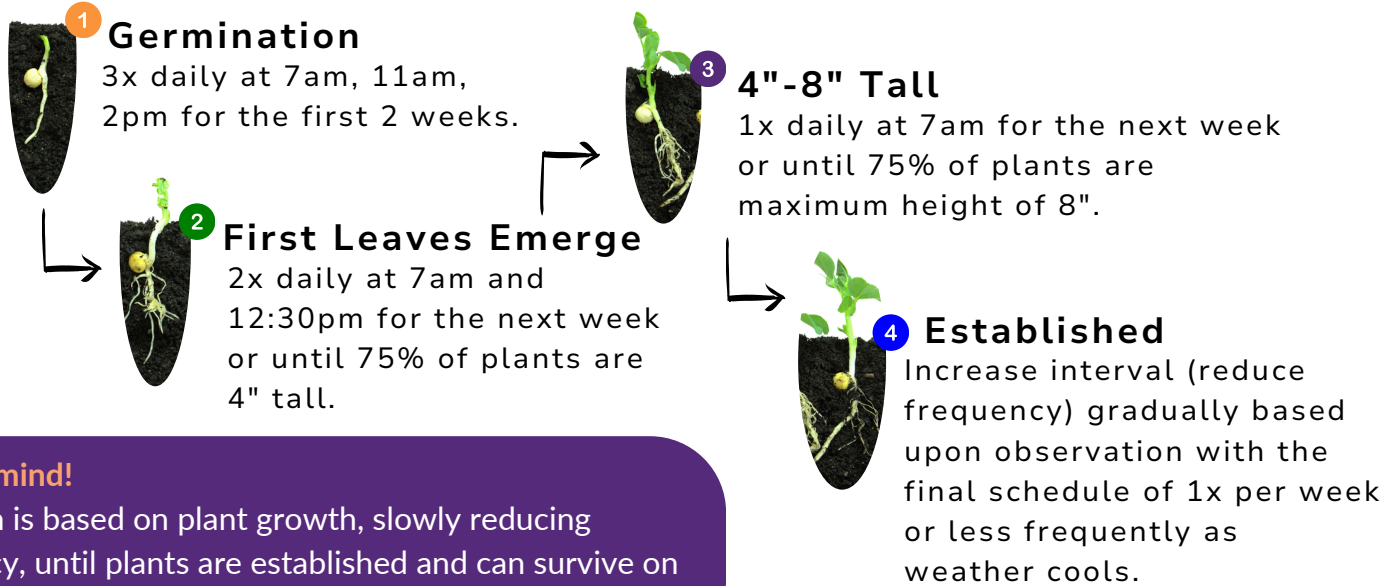
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## PRE-ESTABLISHMENT TIMELINE

Use this timeline to inform your pre-establishment irrigation schedule.



### Keep in mind!

Irrigation is based on plant growth, slowly reducing frequency, until plants are established and can survive on deficit-watering during the growing season.

## POST-ESTABLISHMENT TIMELINE

Use the charts below to inform your post-establishment irrigation schedule.

Landscape Type			Polyculture Lawn Fixed Inches	Polyculture Lawn 30% ETo	Cool Season Grass 80% ETo	Cool Season Grass 1.00"/week
Irrigation Type			Rotating Sprinkler	Rotating Sprinkler	Rotating Sprinkler	Rotating Sprinkler
Precipitation Rate In/Hr			0.50"/Hr	0.50"/Hr	0.50"/Hr	0.50"/Hr
Growing Month	Monthly ETo inches	Weekly ETo inches	Recommended Maximum Minutes Per Week for 0.50 Inches		Irrigation Requirement Min. Per Week Non-functional Turf	
April	4.00	0.93	56	17	45	120
May	5.50	1.24	60	22	60	120
June	6.00	1.40	60	25	67	120
July	6.50	1.47	60	26	70	120
August	6.00	1.35	60	24	65	120
September	4.50	1.05	60	19	50	120
October	3.00	0.68	41	12	33	120

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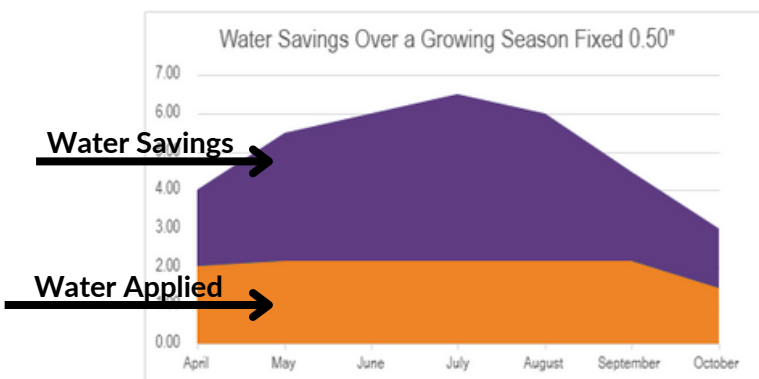
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## IRRIGATION APPROACHES

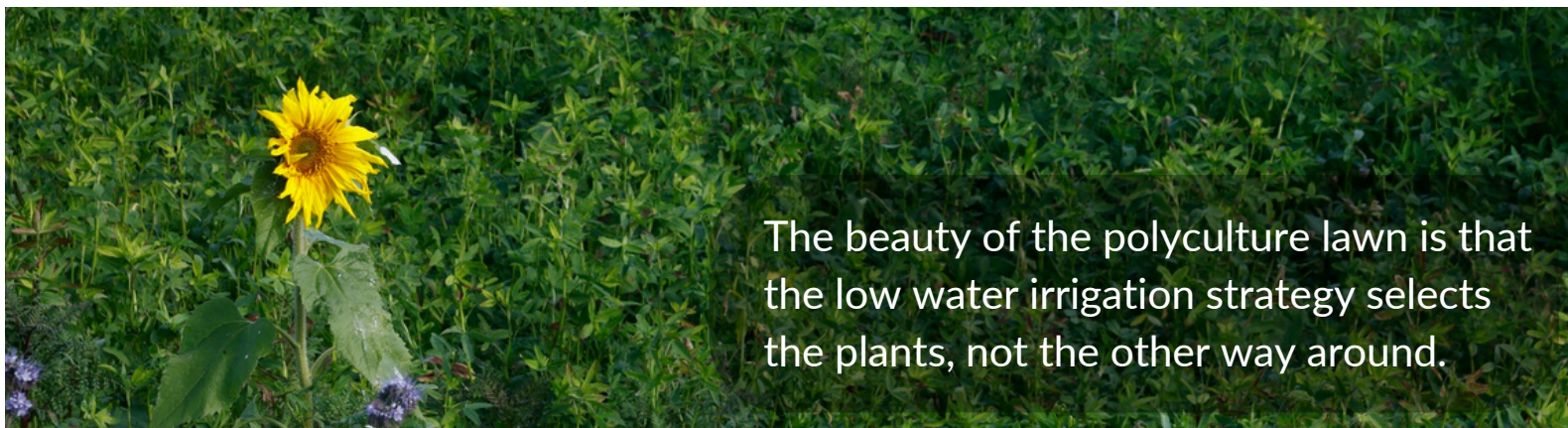
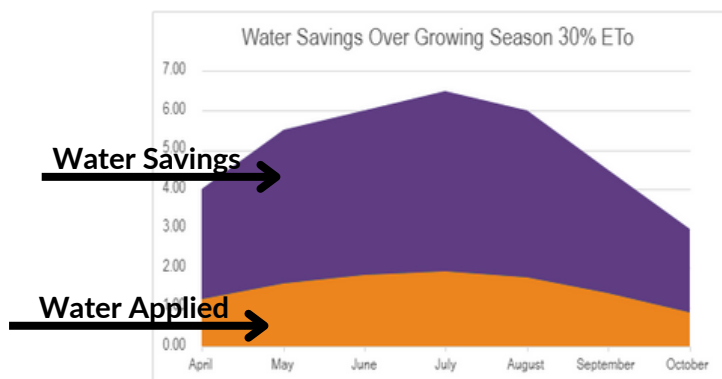
The chart below outlines two different strategies for reducing the water applied to your polyculture lawn during the growing season.

Strategy	Prescriptive Watering Approach	Weather Based Approach
Best For...	Simple scheduling with consistent water application. A zonal precipitation rate is needed for calculations.	Adaptive sites affected by climate variability and/or sites with sophisticated weather-based irrigation systems.
How it Works	Apply a maximum of 0.50 inches per week, maximum of x1 per week schedule (can be less frequent).	Adjust irrigation amount based on live weather data. This amount will change every week.
Calculation Steps	Set irrigation amount at 0.50 inches per event with multiple start times to avoid runoff. Adjust only in extreme conditions.	Get weekly local ETo (evapotranspiration) inches and multiply by 30%. Be sure to use multiple start times to avoid runoff.

### PRESCRIPTIVE APPROACH



### WEATHER BASED APPROACH



The beauty of the polyculture lawn is that the low water irrigation strategy selects the plants, not the other way around.