

week, but this again depends upon the season, the weather, and the quality of turf. Two to three applications per week is best for the turf (depending on soil type). Watering a little every day only encourages shallow roots and this leads to other problems.

All sprinklers and their corresponding nozzles are rated for gallons per minute (or m³/L) and precipitation in inches per hour (or mm/hr).

If the reader requires to know more about his/her particular sprinklers rated performance, your supplier or manufacturer can provide this information.

The author has only described spring maintenance on the most basic type of system. As technology improves and water conservation becomes more and more important, there are many worthy features that are gaining acceptance because of the amount of money they can save in operational expenditures. For example:

- Moisture Sensing Devices
- Rain Sensing Devices
- Matched Precipitation Sprinklers

- Pressure Regulating Devices
- Cycle & Soak Control Feature
- Weather Stations
- Computerized Central Control Systems

After spring start-up, there needs to be a continuous commitment on behalf of the maintenance crew to perform routine maintenance.

An irrigation system is a sizeable investment—just like the grounds maintenance equipment, it needs regular check-up and care.

Andrew Gaydon is the Manager of the Turf Division of Vanden Bussche Irrigation (VBI Distribution). VBI is a design and supply company to the Golf and Turf industry in Ontario. Before emigrating to Canada 12 years ago, Andrew was the Sales Manager of a Combine Harvester company in his native U.K. Prior to that, he farmed sugar cane and citrus in Central Africa for the Anglo American Corporation. He is past President of Canadian Irrigation Association, and is a respected Guest Speaker on irrigation with various organizations. The Sports Turf Association is pleased to welcome Andrew to the Board of Directors and look forward to his expertise.



WORKING UNDER THE SUN

A Health & Safety Issue

Outdoor workers are exposed to dangerous levels of ultraviolet radiation sun exposure which, over the years, can cause premature skin aging, skin cancer and cataracts in older people.

Personal Protection

Workers exposed to excessive U.V. radiation should use the following personal protective equipment:

1. Wear a broad brimmed hat.
2. Wear U.V. blocking safety glasses.
3. Wear tightly-woven clothing covering on as much of the body as practicable.
4. Wear sunscreen with a minimum SPF15 (Sun Protection Factor) and effective against UV-A, UV-B on all exposed skin.

NOTE: The use of UV-safety measures should not lead to other safety risks. The risk of head injuries from using hats with inadequate impact protection, for example, or the risk of heat stress from wearing heavy clothing in hot environments.

Sun screens must be applied at least 15 and preferably 30 minutes before going out into the sun. This allows the active ingredients to bind with the skin and achieve the protection level. This is especially important with water-proof sunscreens.

Blockage of U.V. rays solves only part of the problem. Anytime the skin is exposed to the sun, it also loses a tremendous amount of moisture. This moisture loss is a major cause of skin peeling and flakiness, regardless of the amount of "sunburn". Choose a sunscreen with a quality moisturizer and Vitamin E to rejuvenate the skin. Simple precautions by outdoor workers can certainly go a long way in reducing the occupational hazard of UV over-exposure to those who work under the sun

Courtesy John Marlatt, Solar Bear



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