Schedule Your Watering Times to Save Water and Help Your Plants
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Everyone wants a beautiful lawn and garden – however, we also need to think about conserving water. The good news is that landscapes can be maintained with far less water then you think! Here are some tips on scheduling your watering times for maximum efficiency, while conserving water.

Elements Affecting the Schedule
Distribution uniformity: Does your sprinkler system water evenly over a given area? The higher the distribution uniformity, the less time the sprinklers need to be on. Investing in a good sprinkler design can save time and water.

Soil Type
Water Percolates into the soil at different rates, depending on the consistency of the soil. If you have clay or compacted soils, keep watering times short to avoid run-off. Loamy soils are more absorbent, and can therefore tolerate longer run times. Watering times must be the shortest with sandy soils – to prevent water from percolating down to a depth where it is no longer usable.

Application Rate
Different sprinklers discharge water at different rates – make sure yours suits your soil.

Storage Capacity
How often should you water your plants depends on their storage capacity and root depth. For example, plants with deep roots need less frequent watering, and plants with shallow roots need more frequent watering.

Evapotranspiration Rate
How soon your plants deplete their water supple can be affected by environmental conditions such as temperature, wind, relative humidity and shade. The perfect sprinkler schedule would water when the plants' storage capacity is at 50% -- if your soil is prone to run-off, divide your watering times to several shorter run-times.

Plant Groupings
Plants have varying water requirements; by grouping plants with similar needs together, your system can be scheduled to water the different "zones" at the appropriate times.

By adopting more sophisticated watering practices, it is possible to have lush landscapes while conserving water!