

# Chatham Court Newsletter

June & July 2013

## GROWING GRASS IN THE DESERT: A CHALLENGE!



**MP Rotator: Pop-Up Sprinkler**  
Hunter Industries Resource Guide

[http://www.hunterindustries.com/resource\\_guide/](http://www.hunterindustries.com/resource_guide/)

Many homeowners do not have the time or expertise to maintain lawns and landscaping, but gardeners can be hired to maintain landscaping. Some only mow, edge, fertilize and reseed. Others adjust watering schedules, repair or replace broken sprinklers, or even deal with vermin such as ground squirrels. It all depends on what a homeowner is willing and able to do, and what a homeowner is willing and able to pay for

someone else to do. The standard for front yard lawns in Chatham Court is that they be healthy and well-maintained. Deficits must be corrected in a timely way. Many paths to that goal exist. Grass lawns can be kept green and healthy even in the desert! Factors affecting success include adjusting the watering schedule, optimizing sprinklers, and correcting things that go wrong.

At first glance, many homeowners might think that frequent watering in hot weather would help grass to survive better. The truth is that watering must encourage proper root growth, and frequent, light watering encourages shallow roots, so grass more easily dries out in hot weather. Healthy grass grows deep roots, so that even in hot weather the grass can draw up plenty of water from the cool soil beneath. Watering

less frequently but for a longer time, year round, encourages deep root growth in all plants.

### Watering Schedule From UC Davis

**Region 7: Sierra**

**Warm-Season Turfgrasses**

Minutes per week to irrigate if your hourly sprinkler output is:

	0.5 in	1.0 in	1.5 in	2.0 in
JAN				
FEB				
MAR				
APR				
MAY				
JUN				
JUL				
AUG				
SEP				
OCT				
NOV				
DEC				

Warm-season turfgrasses are not recommended in this region.

**Cool-Season Turfgrasses**

Minutes per week to irrigate if your hourly sprinkler output is:

	0.5 in	1.0 in	1.5 in	2.0 in
JAN	31	15	10	8
FEB	43	22	14	11
MAR	79	39	26	20
APR	124	62	41	31
MAY	164	82	55	41
JUN	207	103	69	52
JUL	231	115	77	58
AUG	198	99	66	50
SEP	141	70	47	35
OCT	96	48	32	24
NOV	40	20	13	10
DEC	20	10	7	5

# TYPES OF SPRINKLERS

There are many varieties of agricultural water delivery, and sprinklers are no exception. Pop-up sprinkler heads, the most common household variety, can distribute water in various patterns. Pop-up sprinklers look better, and they are less likely to be bumped and damaged when not in use.

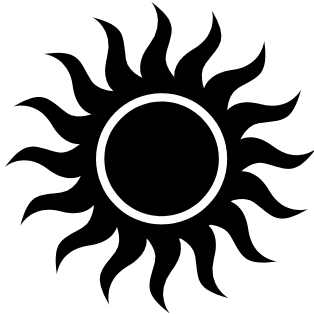
In a sloped area, a homeowner might need to limit

how long sprinklers run because at some point water will just run off. If the watering time needed is longer than the time in which the water begins to run off, more watering sessions might be needed; if a lot of wind blows away the water, more watering might be needed.

Even when a homeowner chooses the perfect sprinkler head for the situation, repairs

will be needed. Periodically checking sprinklers for proper function is important, especially if they are set to run at a time when no one is usually there to see whether they are working properly.

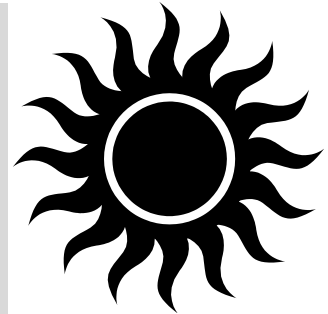
For more information, see:  
Sprinklerwarehouse.com Articles  
*How to choose a sprinkler head*  
& *How to water a sloped area.*



## Midsummer Haiku

Sun's heat presses down  
Green growth pushes back hotly  
Solstice inches winter nearer

*By Shirley Kohl*



# THINGS THAT GO WRONG

Many things can interfere with a homeowner's efforts to keep the front lawn green and healthy, including terrain features, vermin, diseases, and changes in the weather. A lawn that is planted on a slope might not receive as much water as lawn planted on flat ground. Some lawns might be more vulnerable to burrowing creatures like ground squirrels. Some lawns might become infested with weeds or a disease, due to moisture or nutrient imbalances.

Sudden heat might kill grass if a sprinkler head breaks and no one notices for a few days, or if a homeowner is on vacation and has not increased watering enough to compensate for the heat. Solutions to all of these issues exist, as is evident by the fact that many homeowners are able to maintain green, healthy lawns, in spite of the challenges. Next month's newsletter will begin to explore various solutions to these problems, and others. Hiring

someone who has specialized in lawn care is always an option, but it is important to know exactly what you want the specialist to do. If they are expected to repair broken sprinklers, their price will be different than if they are only expected to mow and edge.

Next HOA meeting: August 22,  
at 6078 Mirkwood Ct.

*Annual Meeting September 26, 2013*

Please do not park cars on the street overnight. Guests excepted.

See CC&Rs Article 5.13 & Common Area Rules

You May Be Ticketed!