

Mid-summer is a great time to walk your site and notice areas that are stressed from underwatering, as well as spot areas where there is an opportunity to reduce irrigation -- and trim summer water bills. Here's a quick refresher on two ways you can use ETwater Manager to customize irrigation for your site.

Watering Amount

If your plants aren't receiving the right amount of water, you may increase or decrease the current watering amount for any station. Your water budget is initially set at 100%, which means that we are applying the optimal amount of water for the type of plants you specified. Changing percent of water budget will adjust the amount of water applied. You may reduce the water amount by as much as 50%, or increase it by up to 200%.

To adjust the watering amount with ET Water Manager, go to the Controller Overview page, click on the station name you want to adjust, then click the "Adjust Watering" link. Click on the drop down arrow next to % of Water Budget, and select the percentage change.

To adjust your schedule at the controller, press the "Adjust Program" button, enter the desired station number, then use the arrow keys to increase or decrease your schedule.

Watering Frequency

You may also adjust the frequency of watering. Frequency adjustments are made by changing the percent of water allowed to deplete from the plant root zone before watering which, in turn, affects the number of days between waterings. Adjusting frequency will cause watering to occur more or less often, but will not affect the total amount of water applied to the plants over time. For example, if you are currently watering for 20 minutes every 4 days and you increase the frequency to every 2 days, your watering duration will automatically be reduced to 10 minutes of runtime.

To adjust the watering frequency with ET Water Manager, go to the Controller Overview page, click on the station name you want to adjust, then click the "Adjust Watering" link. Click on the drop down arrow next to Target Soil Moisture Depletion, and select the percentage change.

If you choose, you can adjust both the amount and the frequency of watering to achieve your desired outcome.