



City of Grand Junction
Clifton Water District
CSU Cooperative Extension
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Try to schedule your irrigation audit now for healthy lawns

By CURTIS SWIFT

Special to the Sentinel

This year is the year to find out why you have that yellowish-brown spot in the middle of your lawn. Before it becomes too noticeable, you should think about scheduling an irrigation audit to find and fix the problem.

An audit of your lawn's irrigation system will help you improve the efficiency of water application and improve the lawn's health. If you suspect you may have lawn diseases, or if you have dry areas or boggy spots in your lawn, you need an irrigation audit.

An audit may help you discover you need more or less sprinklers, a different watering schedule, treatment for lawn disease, or even repairs to your system. Maintaining your irrigation system not only ensures water will be distributed to areas which need watering, it also makes sure your system uses the least amount of water necessary to get the job done.

Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service irrigation auditor Ardith Blessinger is a certified landscape irrigation auditor, trained by The Irrigation Association. During an irrigation audit, Blessinger comes to your home and examines how your irrigation system works. In one situation, her audit discovered different types of sprinkler heads watering the same irrigation zone, major leaks, pop-up spray heads watering the same area as impact rotor heads, and numerous disease problems as a result of improper watering. An irrigation audit identifies the problems and helps improve the efficiency of the system. When the problems noted in her audit are corrected, homeowners can reduce the amount of water necessary to maintain the lawn by 40 percent on average.

Not all irrigation systems are properly designed. In some cases shortcuts were taken by the installer, further compounding the problem of proper coverage. If you live in Mesa County and are interested in conserving water while improving the health and beauty of your lawn, call 683-4365 to schedule your irrigation audit.

We live in a semiarid climate where droughts will always be a part of our environment. Water for our future means conserving now. The Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) is a collaboration between the valley's domestic water utilities and CSU Cooperative Extension to provide information and educate the public about drought and the importance of water conservation.