

GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

All proposed landscape irrigation systems in Genesee need to be approved by the ARC. While a layout of the system is not required for ARC review, resident adherence to the contents of this guideline is required as a condition of approval.

Water is a finite resource and the Genesee Foundation is committed to environmental sustainability in our community through water conservation and the promotion of good land stewardship practices. This document is intended to provide awareness of efficient water use and serve as a guide when designing and installing landscape and irrigation in our mountain community.

The native plants in Genesee are naturally xeric and only require a small amount of water to survive. To help preserve this aesthetically attractive natural environment and at the same time allow residents to create customized and sustainable landscape zones around their homes, the following guidelines have been developed by the Genesee Architectural Review Committee (ARC) for the design of landscape irrigation systems.

1. Because plants take in moisture through their roots, the most effective method for providing water to a plant is drip irrigation that provides water to the root zone of each plant. This should represent the majority of the irrigation system. This is also the most sustainable method because it provides water at the ground level, maximizing absorption by the plant and minimizing evaporation and run-off.
2. The water allocated to each plant should be consistent with the requirements of the plant. The system should be designed to serve plants with similar water demands in the same zone.
3. Low volume emitters like bubblers and micro sprays may be used in special situations if drip emitters will not sufficiently sustain the plant material. When used, these should be no greater than 6" above the ground and constitute a minor portion of your overall irrigation system.
4. Because of the high evaporation rate and the impact of wind, overhead irrigation is not allowed except in limited situations where drip and low-volume emitters will not adequately sustain the plant material. When irrigating turf, overhead irrigation is allowed but is limited to small radius (less than 15'), high efficiency rotary nozzles.
5. Because of poor water efficiency, standard spray nozzles and misters are not to be used.

Reference Materials

Following are links to reference materials pertaining to water wise landscape and irrigation in Colorado.

www.denverwater.org/docs/.../Water_Wise_Landscape_Handbook.pdf

www.seleniumtaskforce.org/images/WWU_-_Residential_BMP_Guide.pdf

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