MONARCH ENVIRONMENTAL

Dear Monarch,

We never see the sprinklers turn on in the common areas around the neighborhood. I know we are in a drought, but aren't all of our plants going to die?

SPRINKLER TIMING

Dear Concerned Resident,

You are right, we are in a drought! This means that many green lawns will be dying soon because of water conservation and rationing laws. However, this is not why you don't usually see the sprinklers on in the daytime.

Did you know that most of your plants in the neighborhood get watered while you are asleep? Unless you are an adamant "night owl," or work a night shift, you may never see the neighborhood plants getting watered. There are a few reasons for this:

- The regulations for outdoor irrigation are generally from 9 pm to 5 am, and this is the allocated watering window. If you see irrigation running outside of these hours, it is usually a test of the irrigation system.

- This is actually *better* for water conservation! When plants are watered during nighttime hours, there are lower wind speeds, cooler soil temperatures, and less sunlight. This creates an environment where water reaches plant roots with optimal efficiency and decreased solar energy evaporation, and thus there is a significant reduction in the amount of water required.

Though the above statements are true, it is absolutely important to reach out if you see that any of the plants are suffering or excessively dry for long periods of time. We rely on our community to report any visible leaks or areas of runoff or erosion as well as drought-stressed plant material that do not seem to pertain to the California drought laws. We have a team of certified professionals who can manage community-wide programming, review broken sprinkler line alerts and plan seasonal changes for the watering requirements.

MONARCH TIP

Certain species of plants benefit from irrigation during nighttime hours to allow for the plant material to lose or drain moisture before being hit by the sun's rays, which magnifies through water and can burn or scorch some types of foliage.