

# Owens Valley Irrigation Rules of Thumb

Bishop, Keeler, and South Owens Lake have [CIMIS](#) irrigation stations that can be used to determine with some accuracy how much water is needed based on weather. These can be complicated to use, however. These tables, developed by a previous Farm Advisor, provide a good place to start. Please use common sense and monitor your plants' conditions. Adjust as needed.

Note: A sprinkler's output can exceed your soil's maximum infiltration rate, especially in clay. You may need to break up your irrigation into small, repeated cycles to avoid runoff. Monitor your irrigation to see if this happens to you.

## Lawns, Flowers, Vegetable Gardens, Newly Planted Trees

Daily Temp. °F	Sand		Sandy Loam		Clay	
	How much?	How often?	How much	How often?	How much?	How often?
90 to 100°+	¾"	2 days	1"	3 days	1 ½"	5 days
80 to 90°		3 days		4 days		6 days
70 to 80°		4 days		5 days		8 days
60 to 70°		5 days		7 days		10 days

## Shrubs, Vines, Pasture, Trees Under 3 Years Old

Daily Temp. °F	Sand		Sandy Loam		Clay	
	How much?	How often?	How much	How often?	How much?	How often?
90 to 100°+	1 ½"	5 days	2"	7 days	3"	10 days
80 to 90°		6 days		8 days		12 days
70 to 80°		8 days		10 days		15 days
60 to 70°		10 days		14 days		20 days

## Mature Fruit and Shade Trees Over 3 Years Old

Daily Temp. °F	Sand		Sandy Loam		Clay	
	How much?	How often?	How much	How often?	How much?	How often?
90 to 100°+	2 ¼"	7 days	3"	10 days	4 ½"	15 days
80 to 90°		9 days		12 days		18 days
70 to 80°		11 days		15 days		23 days
60 to 70°		15 days		20 days		30 days

## Average Monthly Inches of Water Evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>) for Bishop, Calif.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1.77	2.60	4.58	5.95	7.04	7.63	8.12	7.36	5.43	4.05	2.36	1.75