Water Run Off and Your Sprinkler System

Most sprinklers are made to apply water to very good soils that can absorb water at a faster rate than typical clay Woodland soils.

For example, a half circle sprayhead nozzle is manufactured, typically, to apply water to your lawn at the rate of 1.5 inches per hour. Unfortunately, Woodland soils are heavy with clay and can only absorb water at about .15 inches per hour or ten times slower than what your sprayheads are applying. This results in run off onto the sidewalk in as little as two to four minutes. If your lawn is sloped, you may see runoff in a shorter amount of time.

Therefore, if you don't aerate or dethatch on a regular basis, consider applying water to lawn areas in *pulses no greater than four minutes* when using sprayheads.

Otherwise….It's money down the drain.

Other recommendations:

- *Turn on your irrigation system and observe how long it takes for water to run off.* Run off may occur before four minutes. Split your watering times into shorter intervals to avoid runoff.
- Install alternative sprinklers like single spray rotors that apply water more accurately and slowly. Water will soak in more efficiently and accurately. Modifications to sprinkler layout will be kept to a minimum. Consider installing MPR Rotator (Rotor) nozzles.
- Run your system and adjust nozzles to minimize direct overspray on concrete.

Ambitious??

- Replace turf near concrete with water-wise plants and/or groundcover and irrigate with drip.
- Overspray may occur because your sprinkler layout is generating overspray from pop ups *within* the lawn area. This may require changing the layout of other sprinklers. Consider moving sprayheads into lawn areas at least *nine inches from concrete*. Be sure to install them level with the soil.
- Use *flexible swing assembly* to connect heads to lateral pipe to avoid continual sprayhead repairs.

Pop up "Swing Assembly"

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