

## Weekly Watering Schedule Glossary of Terms

**CIMIS:** California Irrigation Management Information System. CIMIS is a network of over 130 automated weather stations operated by California's Department of Water Resources. MMWD's three CIMIS stations measure solar radiation, wind speed, temperature, rainfall and relative humidity to determine how much water is being lost from plants and the soil (evapotranspiration) into the air. By knowing this we can determine how much water we need to replace into the ground to meet the water requirements of plants.

**Evapotranspiration (ET):** the amount of water lost into the air from soil via evaporation and from plants via transpiration. This number is expressed in inches.

**Reference Evapotranspiration (ET<sub>o</sub>):** a measure of the amount of water evaporated and transpired by well-maintained, well-watered turf grass. This information is generated by three CIMIS weather stations located in Marin County. The weekly ET<sub>o</sub> information provided by the district is based on the weather conditions for the preceding week.

**Net ET<sub>o</sub>:** reference evapotranspiration minus rainfall.

**Diameter of Canopy:** the diameter (or width across) that the foliage of a plant occupies. Take the average diameter of the plants in your landscape (or in each irrigation station) to help you find the correct runtime.

**High-Water and Low-Water-Use Plants:** A plant's water consumption requirement will vary depending on the plant type. A drought-tolerant low-water-use plant will use less than half the water of a high-water-use plant. Plant water requirements can be determined by consulting the *Sunset Garden Handbook*, or by consulting with the MMWD Conservation Department or your local nursery.

**If you have questions, please contact the Water Conservation Department at (415) 945-1520 or [conservation@marinwater.org](mailto:conservation@marinwater.org).**