

Why Can't I Water On Mondays?

“I will not use any more water if I water on Monday rather than Tuesday!!”

While that statement is true, it is important to know that recommended watering days are not given to save water, but to help more equally distribute it. Most of the new homes around Lake Kiowa include irrigation systems, and many people set their timers to start on Mondays. If everyone does this, our water distribution system – and your water pressure – suffers. Although we have plenty of water, we only have enough pipelines and pump capacity to irrigate about half of the homes at one time.

The Lake Kiowa water system uses gravity to provide water pressure. In an ideal situation, the water pumps would fill the elevated storage tanks overnight and then rest during the heat of the summer day. The water tanks are full at the start of the day and everyone has full pressure. The tanks are partially emptied during the day with some reduction of pressure. The pumps start again to refill during the night and we are ready for another day. The problem arises when the tanks get so low and are under constant use that they can't be refilled overnight. In this case the water pressure is low and gets lower as the day goes on.

Our choices are to spend money to drill more wells, add elevated storage tanks, and replace and increase the size of our main lines, or try to be wiser in the use of what we already have in place. Almost all irrigation systems allow you to select the days of the week that you water.

If the last number in your street address ends in an even number (0,2,4,6,8), you should set your system to water only on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. If the last number ends with an odd number (1,3,5,7,9), you should set your system for Wednesday, Friday or Sunday.

Not watering on Mondays will give the wells time to recharge around their intakes and allow the pumps some time to rest. This, in the long run, will save us all money by reducing the stress and wear on our equipment.

Thanks for your Cooperation

Lake Kiowa Special Utility District