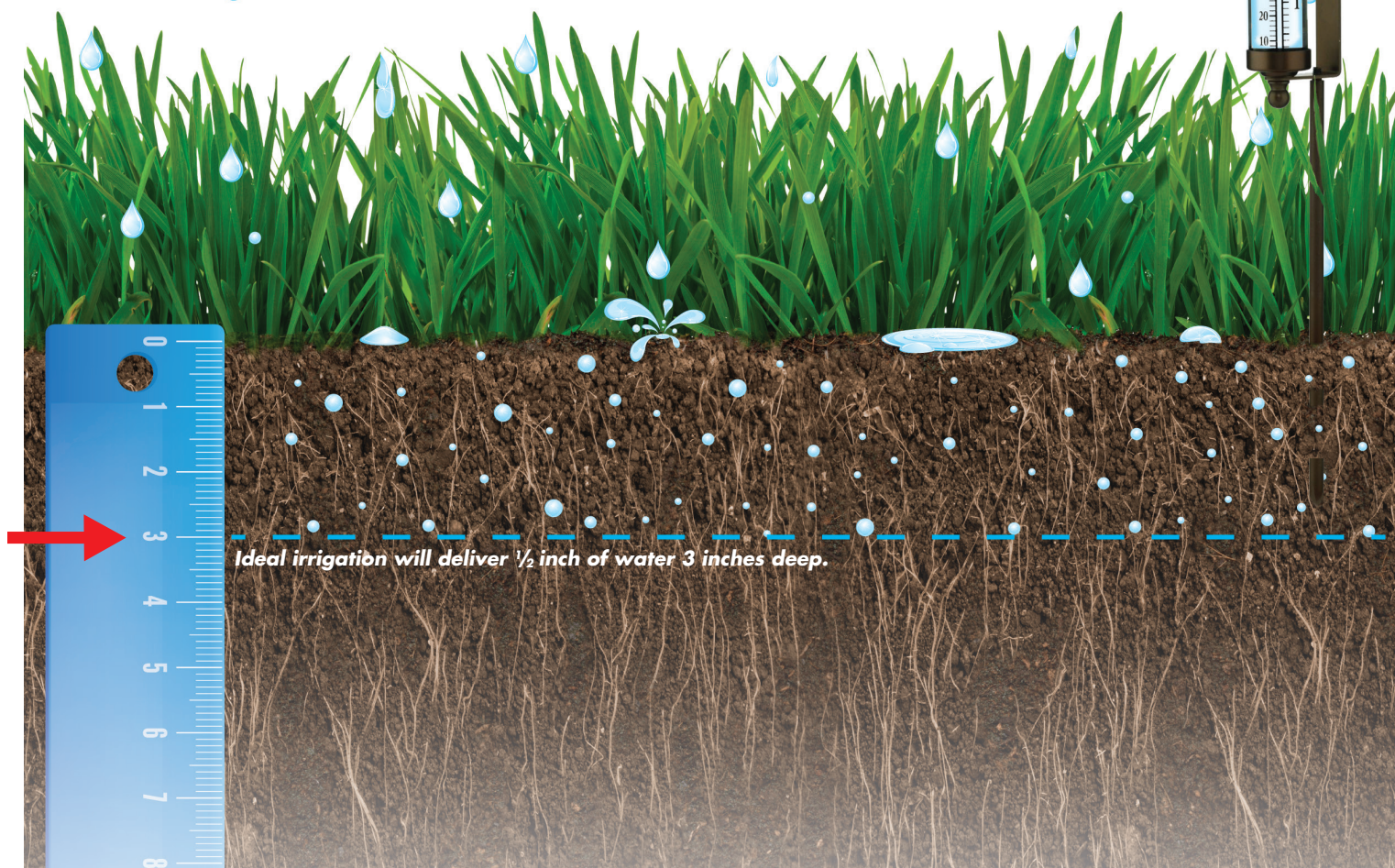


**Black Beauty Tall Fescue
lawns need only half as much
water as Bluegrass lawns and
are just as attractive!**



A Rain Gauge is the easiest and most accurate method of determining how much water you're applying. Use one rain gauge for every 5,000 square feet of lawn area. Remember to empty the rain gauge after each irrigation cycle. You'll also be able to determine how much natural rainfall your lawn has received in between irrigations and take this amount into consideration when calculating your Black Beauty lawns weekly moisture requirements. Remember to empty the rain gauge after each rainfall.

Black Beauty Tall Fescue needs
1 to 1¼ inches of water every week,
ideally NOT all at one time!



Black Beauty Tall Fescue lawns need only half as much water as Bluegrass lawns and are just as attractive!

A Bluegrass lawn under drought stress next to a drought tolerant Black Beauty lawn.



People plant Kentucky Bluegrass lawns for its dark-green color, dense growth, and the nice look. But bluegrass is also known for being extremely water thirsty. Consider these facts: Black Beauty lawns need an average of 1 to 1 ¼" of water per week, while Kentucky Bluegrass needs at least 2½" per week during the summer. In terms of total supplemental irrigation per year, Kentucky Bluegrass needs 24 to 26" of supplemental irrigation, while Black Beauty lawns need as little as 10" – 15"!

Why is Kentucky Bluegrass so high maintenance in terms of water usage? Although it has very thick growth on top of the lawn, this species actually has a shallow root system relative to other turf-grasses. Deeper roots, like those of Black Beauty, grow four feet deep and are able to access more water and nutrients; but bluegrass lawns do not have that luxury. What is worse is that the bluegrass root growth slows as temperatures increase, practically stopping once temperatures exceed 80°F — which means you may need to water as much as every other day during the summer to keep your lawn from going dormant. The waxy cuticle coating on Black Beauty Tall Fescues lowers the evapo-transpiration rate, so less moisture escapes back into the atmosphere.

Watering Suggestions:

Black Beauty Tall Fescue lawns are drought resistant and don't require excess watering. The best way to gauge when to water a Black Beauty lawn is to let the lawn itself tell you! You can tell when a Black Beauty lawn requires watering by the color, it will tend to start having a slightly gray color to it and will also slightly crush when you walk on it, leaving visible prints behind you.

All watering should also be done in the morning and completed by noon, so that the grass has a chance to dry before nightfall.

Water and Irrigation Rates:

One inch of natural rain falling on one acre of ground is equal to about 27,154 gallons and weighs about 113 tons. An inch of snow falling evenly on one acre of ground is equivalent to about 2,715 gallons of water. One inch of rain will deliver approximately 0.60" into the root zone at least 3 inches deep. The cloud cover and cooler temperatures during a rain storm prevent moisture loss from evaporation which occurs when you irrigate on a sunny day.

The most efficient man-made irrigation system is the Center Pivot. A pump delivers water from a well that is broadcast through aluminum tubes and sprinkler heads over fields of up to 200 acres in size. The pivot can operate up to 23.5 hours per day at an 85% efficiency rate and will deliver on average 0.35 inches of water per day into the root zone, much less than natural rainfall.

A ¾" garden hose will deliver 18 gallons of water per minute. If it is attached to a sprinkler and is run for 30 minutes over 1,000 square feet of lawn area it will deliver on average 0.20" of water into the root zone 3 inches deep.

Soil Composition, (clay, sand or silt,) rate of water flow, (gpm - gallons per minute), air temperature and time of day are all important factors to take into account when calculating the amount of water being applied during irrigation.

A word of caution in regards to irrigating the lawn. The soil infiltration rate decreases with water application time. Therefore, large applications of water can increase the potential for runoff .

It is better to water deeply and less frequently. Each time you irrigate you should attempt to put (0.50" - ½ inch) of water three inches down in the soil. In the hot summer months three waterings per week are needed but in the spring and fall two waterings per week are sufficient.