

Outdoor Budget

The outdoor budget is calculated using three factors:

- Amount of irrigated acreage per parcel
- Daily evapotranspiration
- Plant factor

Irrigated Acreage

The irrigated acreage is the amount of landscaped area on the property that receives regular watering. Pools and spas are also included in the irrigated acreage. County Assessor parcel data and the District's Geographic Information System were used to determine the irrigated acreage for your home.

Daily Evapotranspiration

Evapotranspiration (ET) is the amount of water that is lost each day due to evaporation and plant transpiration. Evaporation will vary due to factors such as wind, humidity and temperature. Plant transpiration is the amount of water that plants lose from their leaves and plant tissues. The ET rate is measured every day in inches. For your water budget, the ET for each day in the billing cycle is added up. There is a higher ET rate in the summer when the weather is warmer, than in the winter. MNWD would measure ET using weather stations that can calculate precise data for 110 distinct microclimate zones within our service area.

Plant Factor

The plant factor measures the specific amount of irrigation water required by each type of plant in your yard. For example, grasses have a plant factor between 0.6 and 0.8, while water-efficient plants may have a plant factor of only 0.3 or 0.4. Your water budget would be calculated assuming your entire landscaped area is water-thirsty grass, using a plant factor of 0.8.

Outdoor Water Budget Formula

Irrigated acreage x ET x plant factor x .62 (conversion factor from inches to cubic feet)

Example:

- 5,000 square feet of irrigated acreage, ET of 5.72 inches
- $5,000 \times 5.72 \times 0.8 \times .62 = 14,186$ gallons of water = 19 billing units
(1 billing unit = 748 gallons)