

# YARD METER MATH



## COULD YOU SAVE WITH A YARD METER?

A second water meter, or yard meter, helps residents who irrigate frequently save money by reducing sewer charges on water used for irrigation or other outdoor purposes. This meter does not get charged sewer because it only goes on the yard for outside watering purposes. However, there is a meter fee each month to have the meter installed in their home. To be cost effective a certain amount of water needs to be used through the yard meter each year to save enough money to break even on the monthly fee. Below is a breakdown of the average cost of having a water meter.

### UPFRONT COSTS:

Minimum Monthly Charge	\$5.38 (\$64.56 charged for entire year)
Meter Setting Fee	\$425.00
Plumbing Costs	??????

### SAVINGS:

Sewer Charge on water	\$3.11 per 100 cubic feet/
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Amount of water through the yard meter each year to break even on monthly meter fees for existing yard meters would be 2075 cu ft

### USAGE TO RECOUP COSTS:

Total Cost	$\$64.56 + \$425.00 = \$489.56$
Usage needed	$\$489.56 / \$3.11 = 157.42 * 100 \text{ cu ft} = 15,741 \text{ cu ft.}$

15,741 cu ft of usage does not include plumbing cost to set up yard meter assembly

### GUIDELINES FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEM USAGE:

- Lot dimensions of  $80 * 125 = 10,000 \text{ sq ft}$
- Establish yards average 1 inch per week
- 3 month season and 4 weeks a month gives 12 inches/ 1 foot of water per year
- 1 foot of water over 10,000 sq ft is 10,000 cu ft.
- $15,741 \text{ cu ft.} / 10,000 \text{ cu ft} = 1 \frac{1}{2}$  years to payoff with \$64.56 added yearly + plumbing costs to be accounted for.

For an application to obtain a water meter go to [www.CityOfAmes.org/Water](http://www.CityOfAmes.org/Water)



City of Ames Water Meter Division  
300 E. 5th Street, Building 2, Ames, Iowa 50010  
515.239.5151

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## GARDEN HOSES:

- Garden hoses use 4-8 gallons per minute (.5 to 1 cubic ft/ minute). To use 15,741 cubic feet would take 129 to 258 hours of usage. Over the proposed 12 week season is 10 3/4 to 21 1/2 hours a week for the 1st year minus plumbing costs.
- To cover the cost of existing yard meters, approximately 2,000 cubic feet over 12 weeks you'd need to water 5 1/2 to 2 3/4 hours a week

## WATER COST COMPARISON:

2,000 cu ft without yard meter	\$.0401/cu ft water rate + \$.0311/cu ft sewer=	\$142.40
2,000 cu ft with yard meter	\$.0401/cu ft water rate	\$80.20

## SAVINGS:

$\$142.40 - \$80.20 = \$62.20$

## COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH YARD METER: FIRST YEAR:

\$425.00 Meter fee (one time)  
\$5.38 monthly fee (\$64.56 yearly)  
????????? Plumbing Costs

## SECOND YEAR:

\$5.38 Monthly fee (\$64.56 yearly)

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