

Lawn and Landscape

watering restrictions

Saving Florida's water resources is a vital responsibility that will take everyone's participation to be successful. Water conservation may seem unnecessary in a state surrounded by water, but not all of that water is available for drinking or irrigation.

One of the most important ways to help meet our water supply needs for today and in the future is through conservation, which is the efficient and effective use of water.

To ensure the efficient use of water for lawn and landscape irrigation, the St. Johns River Water Management District has adopted watering restrictions. The restrictions are in effect year-round and apply throughout the District's entire 18-county area. Watering wisely promotes healthier lawns and landscapes, and conserves our precious water resources.

**florida's water
it's worth saving**

**Water lawns only when needed,
but only on your designated days,
before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.**

What are the watering restrictions?

- Irrigation is allowed only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- **Residential irrigation:** During daylight saving time (second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in November), watering is permitted no more than two days per week. Those with addresses that end in an odd number or no number may water only on Wednesday and Saturday, and those with addresses that end in an even number may water only on Thursday and Sunday. During Eastern Standard Time (first Sunday in November until the second Sunday in March), the District allows watering only one day per week, on Saturday at addresses that end in an odd number or no number and on Sunday at addresses that end in an even number.
- **Nonresidential irrigation:** During daylight saving time, watering is allowed only on Tuesday and Friday. During Eastern Standard Time, watering is allowed only on Tuesday.

All lawn and landscape irrigation is limited to three-quarters of an inch of water per application, and irrigation can occur for no more than one hour per day per zone.

Restrictions apply to water withdrawn from ground or surface water, from a private well or pump, or from a public or private utility.

Persons irrigating with an automatic lawn irrigation system installed after May 1991 must install, maintain and operate a rain sensor device or switch that overrides the system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

When reclaimed water is available for use, the use of private irrigation wells is not authorized.

All landscape irrigation is limited to only that necessary to meet landscape needs.

What are the exceptions to the restrictions?

Irrigation using a micro-spray, micro-jet, drip or bubbler system is allowed anytime.

Irrigation of new landscape is allowed at any time of day on any day for the initial 30 days and every other day for the next 30 days for a total of one 60-day period, provided that the irrigation is limited to the minimum amount necessary for establishment.

Watering in of chemicals, including insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides and herbicides when required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices, is allowed anytime within 24 hours of application. No more than one-quarter of an inch of water per application may be used to water in chemicals except as otherwise required by law, the manufacturer or best management practices.

Irrigation systems may be operated anytime for maintenance and repair purposes, not to exceed 20 minutes per hour per zone.

Irrigation using a hand-held hose equipped with a spray nozzle that can be adjusted so water flows only as needed is allowed anytime.

Discharge of water from a water-to-air air-conditioning unit or other water-dependent cooling system is not limited.

The use of water from a reclaimed water system is allowed anytime. A reclaimed water system includes systems in which the primary source is reclaimed water, which may or may not be supplemented from another source during peak demand periods.

The use of recycled water from wet detention treatment ponds for irrigation is allowed anytime provided the ponds are not augmented from any ground or off-site surface water, or public supply sources.

Who do the restrictions apply to?

The restrictions apply to all lawn and landscape irrigation not regulated by a consumptive use permit. "Landscape irrigation" means the outside watering of plants in a landscape such as shrubbery, trees, lawns, grass, ground covers, plants, vines, gardens and other such flora that are situated in such diverse locations as residential areas, public, commercial and industrial establishments, and public medians and right-of way. "Landscape irrigation" does not include agricultural crops, nursery plants, cemeteries, golf course greens, tees, fairways, primary roughs, and vegetation associated with intensive recreational areas, such as playgrounds, football, baseball and soccer fields.

How do these restrictions conserve water?

Lawns and landscapes generally require less water than is applied. The amount of rainfall your area receives should dictate how often you water your lawn and how much water you apply. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for as long as two weeks. Only water your lawn if it needs it.

Watering during the early morning or early evening hours reduces losses from evaporation and wind that can occur during the middle of the day.



St. Johns River
Water Management District

St. Johns River Water Management District
Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs
4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429
Palatka, FL 32178-1429
(800) 725-5922

Visit us on the Internet at floridaswater.com.

This publication is free.

© 2009 St. Johns River Water Management District