

1-day per week irrigation remains!

Citrus County Utilities Water Conservation

Water-wise Rules

August 2017

The Emergency Phase III Water Shortage order declared by the Southwest Florida Water Management District has been extended to October 1, 2017, at which time it will be reviewed again for possible further extension. The day of week and times of allowable irrigation are detailed below. Give us a call if you need assistance adjusting your irrigation controller.



Aquifer Level (percentile). Aquifers are underground layers of rock and sand that hold water. In Citrus County, 100 percent of the drinking water supply comes from our aquifer. As of July 19, the Northern Region aquifer level (Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties), was at the **29th percentile**. This time last year, the region was at the 42nd percentile.



Lawn watering is limited to **ONCE** per week, before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m., as follows:

Addresses with "house numbers" ...	May only irrigate on ...
Ending in 0 or 1	Monday
Ending in 2 or 3	Tuesday
Ending in 4 or 5	Wednesday
Ending in 6 or 7	Thursday
Ending in 8 or 9	Friday
Rights-of-way, common areas and other "no address" locations	Friday

Landscape Watering

Hand watering and micro-irrigation of flower beds, shrubs and other plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day at any time, if needed.

Deed Restrictions & Community Standards Enforcement

- Homeowners associations and other entities must suspend any requirement to replace lawns, pressure wash or engage in other activity that increases water use during this water shortage declaration.

New Lawns and Plants

- Allowances available. Call (352) 527-7669 to report new plant material, if additional watering is needed.
- Be able to supply proof of installation date upon request.

Rain Sensors — Necessary and Required

The recent rains and reduced irrigation frequency are aiding aquifer recovery. However, regardless of water supply, irrigation efficiency is always necessary. Irrigating in the rain or shortly afterward is simply wasteful and unnecessary. A basic \$20 rain sensor installed on an automatic system will interrupt irrigation when sufficient rainfall is received. Furthermore, rain sensors are required by law. Grass only needs about 1/2" to 3/4" of water each week. Applying irrigation shortly after this amount of rainfall does not benefit the yard because water simply washes away. We offer rain sensor testing assistance, as well as a \$50 rebate to replace sensors not working.

Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM



FREE Classes

Irrigation Efficiency:

September 5, 2017, 2-3:30 PM

Discuss irrigation efficiency needs, such as regular monitoring, frequency, duration of applications and proper maintenance.

Responsible Pest Management:

September 19, 2017, 2-3:30 PM

Learn steps to identify the cause of plant damage, select the most effective and least harmful treatment, and apply appropriately to control infestations.

These FREE workshops are held at the Citrus County Extension Services office. Register at www.citrusbocc.com/waterres/fyn/ or call (352) 527-5708.



Help Prevent The Spread of Mosquito Borne Diseases!

Dump or drain any items in your yard that can hold water for more than three days! Common culprits can be bird baths, flowerpot reservoirs, small fish ponds and fountains. To learn about larvicides that can be used in areas of water that cannot be drained or to find out which mosquito repellent works best, visit:

www.citrusmosquito.org



EMAIL ALERTS

Get updates on Water Restriction Changes, classes, programs, and other water conservation news. Signup for alerts at www.citrusbocc.com/waterres/watering-restrictions.htm

July was Smart Irrigation month. Fifty percent of our public drinking water supply is used to irrigate lawns and landscapes. Increasing irrigation efficiency is closely tied to the future of our water resources. One step toward adopting smart irrigation practices is installing a Water Sense labeled irrigation controller. Some offer the ability to schedule irrigation from anywhere in the world via smart phone. All either use an onsite weather station or connect to local data via the home's Wi-Fi to detect rainfall. Turning a controller on and off when grass shows signs of need is the most efficient irrigation practice. However, for those that can't do this, consider installing a WS labeled timer that automatically adjusts the irrigation schedule based on weather, season and landscape conditions. Citrus County Utilities offers its customers a \$150 account credit for upgrading the existing controller to a qualifying model. Call for an application.



September — Landscape and Garden

Bedding Plants: Refresh summer beds with ageratum, celosia, zinnia, and wax begonia for color into fall.

Herbs: Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperature of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil.

Vegetables: Plant cool season vegetable crops such as radish, carrot, cabbage, and lettuce.

Flowering perennials: Firebush, firespike, russelia (pictured), and other perennials supply nectar for visiting hummingbirds.

Divide perennials and bulbs: Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to new planting areas and monitor water needs during establishment.

For more details, visit: http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/calendar/

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Visit our website:
www.citrusbocc.com, then
Departments, Water Resources.