

March 2011



## *just the* **FACTS**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.



[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
561-686-8800 or 1-800-432-2045 in Florida  
[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

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### Landscape Irrigation Restrictions

*For Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties, the Reedy Creek Improvement District and cities within Lee County except Cape Coral*

- Landscape irrigation using reclaimed water is not restricted.

#### Existing landscaping

- Watering is not allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Residents and businesses with **odd**-numbered street addresses may water lawns and landscapes on **Wednesdays** and **Saturdays** from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- Residents and businesses with **even**-numbered street addresses, no street address or irrigate both even and odd address within the same zones, including multi-family units and homeowners associations, may water lawns and landscapes on **Thursdays** and **Sundays** from 12 a.m. to 10 a.m. and/or from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- For the most efficient use of water, residents should avoid irrigating during both time periods on the same day.

#### New landscaping, sod or other plantings

- New landscaping can be watered without regard to restrictions on the first day it is installed.
- Landscaping that has been in place from **2 days to 30 days** can be watered on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and/or Sundays** during the hours allowed for regular landscape irrigation.
- Landscaping that has been in place from **31 days to 90 days** can be watered on **Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays** during the hours allowed for regular landscape irrigation.
- Additional watering days can only be used to benefit new landscaping. An entire irrigation system zone may only be watered if it contains at least 50 percent new landscaping.

#### Applying lawn maintenance products

- Landscape irrigation for watering-in fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides is allowed for one application unless the need for more than one application is stated in the directions specified by the product manufacturer.
- Watering-in is allowed only during established watering days and times unless a professional licensed applicator has posted a temporary sign with the date of the application and the date of needed watering-in.

### Frequently Asked Questions

- Restrictions apply to all sources of water for irrigation including wells, canals, ponds and lakes.
- Using a watering can or hand-watering with a hose and attached adjustable spray or trigger nozzle is allowed.
- Drip, bubble and micro-jet systems that apply water directly to root plant zones may be used anytime. Any low-volume system should not produce water runoff.
- Landscape irrigation systems may be operated once a week during restricted days and/or times for cleaning, maintenance and repair if an attendant is on site in the area being tested. Testing should not exceed 10 minutes per zone.
- Car, boat and other vehicle washing is allowed. Always attach an adjustable spray or trigger nozzle to the hose and wash vehicles over a non-paved, grassy or porous area.
- Residential and commercial water restrictions are mandatory and are enforced by South Florida Water Management District staff, local governments and law enforcement agencies. Residential fines vary by municipality, but typically range from \$25 to \$125 for a first offense. Civil penalties for violations of restrictions by District permittees and commercial users begin at \$1,500 and can increase depending on the severity of the violation.
- Violations of water restrictions may be reported to local law enforcement or city/county zoning and code enforcement agencies. Both have the authority to issue warnings and citations that can lead to fines. If you choose to notify your local law enforcement agency, please call their non-emergency number.
- Variances from restrictions that may allow you to change your watering days and/or times can be applied for through the South Florida Water Management District. The application form and instructions are online at: [www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch](http://www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch). Applications will be reviewed by South Florida Water Management District staff, and approval or denial is based on criteria listed in the Water Shortage Plan Rule. Water restrictions must be observed while a variance application is under consideration. For more information call (800) 432-2045.