

**Revised Watering Restrictions for District
By Terry Brite DelValle
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The St. Johns Water Management District has revised the irrigation guidelines for the counties in their district. This includes coastal counties from Nassau south to Indian River and the inland counties Baker, Clay, Alachua, Putnam, Marion, Lake, Seminole plus parts of Orange and Osceola. Local governments have been asked to enforce the rules. Enforcement officials are already busy writing tickets to offenders in Duval County.

The revised water rules are similar to the Jacksonville Irrigation Ordinance passed last year but there are a few changes. No watering from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. has been a standard for some time. Now, for all counties in the district, irrigation is limited to set days based on the address. During daylight saving time odd numbered addresses or no addresses may irrigate on Wednesday and Saturday, even numbered addresses can irrigate on Thursday and Sunday, and non residential addresses (commercial) can irrigate on Tuesday and Friday.

**No Watering
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



During Eastern Standard Time irrigation is allowed once per week based on the following: odd numbered homes or no address on Saturday even numbered addresses on Sunday, and non residential addresses on Tuesday.

For condominiums or apartment complexes that have both odd and even addresses but are all watered with a common irrigation system, use the physical address of the building complex to determine the irrigation days. If there is no physical address, use the “no address” days.

Irrigation is limited to no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch water per zone per irrigation day during daylight saving time or Eastern Standard Time. An irrigation zone may run no longer than one hour per irrigation day. A zone may not be run for 1 hour in the morning and another hour that evening on your irrigation day.

If you have an automatic sprinkler system and it was installed after May 1991, you must have a functional rain sensor device. This device will override the irrigation system if there is sufficient rainfall.

There are many exceptions to the two or one day a week irrigation rule. Read on to learn about some of the more common ones.

- Micro-irrigation (micro-spray, micro-jet, drip or bubbler) is allowed anytime but is limited to proper irrigation.
- Irrigation is allowed for new plants at any time of day on any day for 30 days after planting and then every other day for the next 30 days for a total of 60 days.
- Watering in chemicals (pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides) with no more than ¼" of water is allowed within 24 hours of application if required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices.
- It's okay to run irrigation systems anytime for maintenance and repair but don't exceed 20 minutes per hour per zone.
- Water using a hand-held hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle any day and anytime.
- Water from a water-to-air air-conditioning system is allowed anytime.
- A property owner or a group of individuals within a neighborhood can apply for a variance from specific day of the week limitations if there is justification. To obtain this form, go to <http://www.sjrwmd.com/rules/pdfs/40C2-1082-2.pdf>.

Predictions are that we will have a dry warm spring so make sure to fine tune automatic sprinkler systems now to increase efficiency. Mow lawns at the highest recommended height to encourage a deep root system and remove no more than one-third of the top at each mowing.

Enforcement officials in Duval County have been trained regarding the watering rules and are out there writing tickets. Offenders will receive a warning for the first violation, a \$50 ticket for the second, followed by a \$250 ticket for subsequent violations. For more information on the new water restrictions by the Water Management District go to <http://sjr.state.fl.us/irrigationrule/index.html>.