

New Restrictions as of October 1, 2017

Citrus County Utilities Water Conservation

Water-wise Rules

October 2017

The lawn watering allowance has returned to twice per week, before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., as follows:

ODD addresses — Wednesday and Saturday **EVEN addresses — Thursday and Sunday**

Two irrigation days per week allow some flexibility for watering your lawn. However, these days are NOT meant to recommend irrigating twice a week. We suggest seasonally adjusting your irrigation schedule.

This time of year, one irrigation day per week is typically enough to meet turf needs. Remember, your lawn likely did fine during the 1-day a week schedule. Furthermore, as nighttime temperatures cool, less frequent irrigation is needed. If grass shows signs of stress, like blades folded in half lengthwise or foot prints lingering in the lawn, schedule irrigation on your next allowable watering day. If you need help adjusting the controller, we offer free training. Just give us a call.

If you have new grass or plants requiring additional irrigation, call (352) 527-7669.



Avoid Turfgrass Stress

Cool fall weather and shorter days means less sunlight to turfgrass and plants. In response, growth slows and less frequent water is needed. Applying too much water in cooler months can cause more harm than good. Water doesn't evaporate from foliage as quickly and roots stay wet for longer periods. Turfgrass can become stressed when unable to use the excess water, which can lead to fungal disease and root rot.

That means it is time to adjust irrigation controllers. One-half inch to three-quarters inch of water about once a week through November and then every fourteen days from December through February should meet grass needs. If it rains, consider skipping irrigation.

For greatest control, many owners turn the irrigation system to the off position, and then turn it back on when needed. If you have taken advantage of the County's \$150 Water Sense labeled irrigation controller rebate, the schedule should continue weekly irrigation, but automatically reduce the amount of water applied, which also works.

Spring / Summer

Fall / Winter

Brown grass is normal in fall and winter

While many residents that relocate from northern states may believe Florida stays green year-round, the fact is our warm season grasses such as St. Augustine and Bahia turn brown during the cooler months. Most turfgrasses shift their energy from leaf growth above the ground to root storage below the ground as winter approaches. Called

hardening-off, this process increases the turf's survival over the winter.

Do not apply nitrogen fertilizer from now until April. Nitrogen fertilizers force grass shoots to grow and can stress grass at this time of year. So, take a break from fertilizing. It's good for the grass, environment, and adheres to Citrus County's fertilizer ordinance.

Applying nitrogen fertilizer to grass that has slowed its growth or has gone dormant is a source of pollution to our springs, lakes, bay and aquifer. This is because turf cannot absorb the nutrients during these times, so fertilizers simply wash away or leak down.

Schedule a Specialist

While your irrigation system is taking a break this fall and winter, conduct a walk through of the system. Run zones no more than ten minutes each to look for leaks, breaks, clogged heads and blocked sprays. Not sure what to look for, give us a call (352) 527-7669. We offer free training, as well as help with the irrigation controller and testing the rain sensor.

Look for the label!

Thinking of replacing your irrigation controller?

Consider a WaterSense labeled controller that acts like a thermostat for your lawn, using local weather data to

determine when and how much to water. These controllers can reduce irrigation

water use by 15%. \$150 rebate available.



Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ PROGRAM

Right Plant, Right Place:

FREE Classes

November 7, 2017 — 2 to 3:30 PM

Garden success begins by choosing the right plant for the right place.

Planning a Florida-friendly Landscape:

November 21, 2017 — 2 to 3:30 PM

Use FFL principles to create a beautiful & sustainable landscape that uses less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

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



EMAIL ALERTS

Sign up to receive email alerts on Water Restriction Changes, classes, programs, and other water conservation news. Visit citrusbocc.com/waterres/watering-restrictions.htm to register.

DID YOU KNOW pouring Fats, Oils and Grease down the drain clogs pipes and creates sewer backups and spills?



Keep pipes clear by pouring room temperature fatty products into an old sealable container and toss in the trash.

Check for Leaks & Determine Irrigation System Gallons Used

Leaky fixtures and irrigation systems can lead to hundreds and sometimes thousands of gallons of wasted water each month. Follow the steps below to perform a leak check:

- 1st – Turn off all water, both indoors and out.
- 2nd – Locate your meter box typically near the road.
- 3rd – Note the meter reading and use NO water for fifteen minutes.
- 4th – Reread the meter. If it has changed – you have a leak.

The same process can be used to learn about how much water your irrigation system uses each time it runs. If it runs during the night, checking the number before bed and again when you wake up is a good estimate.



November — Landscape and Garden

Annuals/Bedding Plants: Pansy, viola, and chrysanthemum create great fall color.

Herbs: Many herbs like cool, dry weather, such as cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley, sage, and thyme.

Vegetables: Some cool-season crops that can be planted now include broccoli, cabbage, kale, and lettuce.

Irrigation: Turn off systems and water only if needed. Plants need less supplemental watering in cooler weather.

Bulbs: Bulbs to plant include amaryllis, crinum, and daylily. Plant spider lily in partial shade.

Lawn disease: Watch for brown patch and large patch, fungal diseases that cause areas of grass to turn brown. This disease is most often seen in the Fall and Spring months as the result of extended periods of moisture and high humidity. Since treatment is difficult, prevention is key. The best way to prevent large patch is to care for your lawn properly. If you irrigate, apply ½ inch $\frac{3}{4}$ in the very early morning hours and only when the soil is dry.

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.