



## Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

- ☼ Only water your lawn when it needs it for deep root development, which will help your turf be more drought tolerant
- ☼ Look for the following signs and consider watering when you see at least one of them:
  - Folding leaf blades. Drought-stressed lawns will curl up their leaf blades lengthwise in an attempt to minimize leaf area. Wilting is best seen on the older leaves of the grass plant, as the younger leaves are not fully developed and may appear wilted even when they are not.
  - Blue-gray color. Drought-stressed lawns turn from green to bluish-gray.
  - Footprints remaining visible. When footprints or tire tracks remain visible on your lawn long after being made, your lawn is experiencing drought stress.
- ☼ Generally, landscape beds with drought-tolerant species with low water needs and trees require less water than turf areas. Consider changing turf areas to groundcovers and/or shrubs if they are not being utilized for recreation, social gatherings, etc.
- ☼ Turf and landscape beds should always be on separate zones because they have different water needs.
- ☼ Sprays and rotors should always be in separate zones because they apply different amounts of water.
- ☼ Micro-irrigation should be used in landscape beds, not sprays or rotors.
- ☼ Micro-irrigation should be used in areas less than 4 feet wide to minimize overspray.
- ☼ Consider having soil moisture sensors installed.
- ☼ Use rain barrels to capture rain water to use in landscaped areas instead of using indoor/drinking water.

More information is available on the Water Conservation webpage at

[www.cwgdh.com](http://www.cwgdh.com)

or

Water Conservation Hotline 407.656.2732



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- ☼ Check your irrigation system regularly to ensure timer is properly set, there are no leaks, sprinklers are spraying turf and landscaping and hard surfaces, and for proper irrigation methods/design.
- ☼ Florida law requires that all automatic irrigation systems installed after May 1991 have a functioning rain sensor shut-off switch. This switch overrides the automatic irrigation system's cycle when a preset amount of rain has fallen. The switch can be adjusted for different amounts of rainfall. To ensure proper functioning, the sensor should not be installed in an area that is blocked by roof overhangs, bushes or trees. Check regularly to make sure the system is working properly. Test it by turning the irrigation system on and spraying the sensor with the hose. If the irrigation doesn't turn off, the rain sensor may not be working properly.
- ☼ Group together plants that have similar moisture needs.
- ☼ Irrigation zones —Each irrigation zone should be composed of the same kind of emitters throughout, be it rotors, spray heads or micro-irrigation. The rate at which different heads deliver water varies, so for even coverage, head types should not be mixed. Also, heads from different manufacturers vary in coverage, so all heads should be the same brand to ensure even coverage.
- ☼ The term "head-to-head coverage" is used to describe proper placement of sprinkler heads to ensure even water coverage. Essentially, the water from one head should reach the closest neighboring heads.
- ☼ Use a spray nozzle on your hose to control water.
- ☼ Choose Waterwise turf and landscaping plants and/or Florida Friendly Landscaping.
- ☼ Cut grass at the highest recommended height for the turf species - allows roots to grow deeper and grass blades to hold moisture.

Turfgrass Species	Optimal Mowing Height (inches)	Mowing Frequency (days)	Preferred Mower Type
Bahiagrass	3.0 - 4.0	7 - 17	Rotary/ flail
St. Augustinegrass	2.5 - 4.0	5 - 14	Rotary
Zoysiagrass	1.0 - 3.0	10 - 14	Reel

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