

May 2009



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.

Commercial and Agricultural Water Use Restrictions

For South Miami-Dade County Water Users in the South Dade Water Use Basin. Effective 5/5/09. Modifications added on 5/26/09.

Agriculture

- Overhead irrigation is prohibited from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Drip, micro-jet and other low-volume irrigation systems that apply water directly to root plant zones may be used anytime. Operate these systems to maximize efficient water use and minimize water loss.
- Overhead irrigation for stressed field-grown nursery stock is allowed daily for 10 minutes per irrigation zone from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- Overhead irrigation for stress reduction on newly planted fields of boniato is allowed daily for up to 15 minutes per irrigation zone from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Irrigation for moisture stress reduction is allowed for up to 10 days after planting.
- Water use for livestock, aquaculture and soil flooding shall be voluntarily reduced.
- Water for freeze protection is restricted to times when official weather forecasting services predict crop-damaging temperatures.
- Maximize the use of water drawn from the least restricted class when there is access to water from more than one source.
- Agricultural Water Conservation Best Management Practices should be used.

Plant Nurseries

- Overhead Irrigation Restrictions:
 - **Inside:** Allowed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.
 - **Outside:** Voluntary reduction in irrigation for water users registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services which apply best management practices. Irrigation is not allowed between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., 7 days a week, by water users that have not registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and are not applying best management practices.
- External bench misting is allowed for 10 minutes per bench zone during daylight hours.

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- Stress reduction irrigation for containerized nursery stock is allowed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., for 10 minutes per zone.
- Flood irrigation systems are restricted to 8 days per month.
- Low-volume irrigation and hand watering should be voluntarily reduced.

Golf Courses

- Golf courses must reduce their allocated water use by 15 percent.
- If irrigation water is drawn from more than one source, the 15 percent cutback applies only to water that is not reclaimed.
- Weekly reports must specify volumes used from each water source.
- Permit holders must report their previous week's water usage by noon each Monday at www.sfwmd.gov/consERVE.

Violations

Residential and commercial water restrictions are mandatory and will be 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 and frequency of the violation.

For more information on water shortage restrictions, visit our web site at www.sfwmd.gov/watershortage, or call our Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876.