

Proposed rule amendments for irrigation

Lawn and landscape irrigation

In 1991, the St. Johns River Water Management District adopted a rule limiting lawn and landscape irrigation to before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., with a few exceptions.

In 2006, the District amended this rule to include limiting irrigation to no more than two days a week, with a few exceptions.

In an effort to increase water conservation, the District is proposing additional water conservation provisions. Listed below are highlights of the proposed changes.

During Daylight Savings Time

From the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November:

- ▶ Irrigation would be limited to no more than two days a week, before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. (same as current rule).
- ▶ Irrigation would be limited to no more than ½ inch of water per zone per irrigation day.
- ▶ Irrigation days would be specified by address.
 - ◆ Even numbered addresses
 - Thursday and Sunday
 - ◆ Odd numbered or no address
 - Wednesday and Saturday

During Eastern Standard Time

From the first Sunday in November to the second Sunday in March:

- ▶ Irrigation would be limited to no more than one day a week, before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- ▶ Irrigation would be limited to no more than ¾ inch of water per zone per irrigation day.
- ▶ Irrigation days would be specified by address. If the address ends in:
 - ◆ 0 or 1 — Monday
 - ◆ 2 or 3 — Tuesday
 - ◆ 4 or 5 — Wednesday
 - ◆ 6 or 7 — Thursday
 - ◆ 8, 9 or no address — Friday

Other changes

- ▶ The rule would be expanded to also apply to reclaimed water and storm water, two sources which are currently exempt.
- ▶ Where reclaimed water is available, the use of private wells for landscape irrigation would not be authorized.
- ▶ Reclaimed water providers would be able to apply for a permit to allow customers a specified additional irrigation day to address the provider's operational, disposal or storage concerns.
- ▶ Irrigation, including micro-irrigation and use of a hand-held hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle, would be limited to only that needed to meet irrigation needs.
- ▶ Operation of irrigation systems for maintenance and repair would be allowed at anytime of day on any day but no more than one time per week. Operation could not exceed 10 minutes per hour per zone.
- ▶ Irrigation of new landscaping would be allowed on Monday through Friday at anytime of day for the initial 30 days following installation. Irrigation would be allowed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the next 30 days for a total of one 60-day period, provided that the irrigation is limited to the minimum amount necessary for such landscape establishment.
- ▶ Watering in of chemicals, including insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides, and herbicides (when required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices) would be allowed at anytime of day on any day within 24 hours of application. Watering in of chemicals would not exceed ¼ inch of water per application except as otherwise required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices.

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- ▶ A standard general permit would be required to irrigate three days a week when Daylight Savings Time is in effect and/or two days per week when Eastern Standard Time is in effect.
- ▶ Local governments would be encouraged to enforce the rule by adopting landscape irrigation ordinances that implement the rule provisions. If the strict application of the specified day of week schedule results in undue hardship, local governments would be able to grant variances. However, no single zone would be allowed to be irrigated more than two days per week during the period of Daylight Savings Time and no more than one day a week during the period of Eastern Standard Time. Local governments would not be able to grant a variance from any other provision of the rule.
- ▶ Local governments would need to amend existing landscape irrigation ordinances to be consistent with the rule.

NOTE: Additional changes are proposed to the rule. Please review all proposed changes at www.sjrwmd.com/irrigationrule.

Agricultural crops, nursery plants, golf courses and recreational areas

The current rule for irrigation of agricultural crops, nursery plants, golf courses and recreational areas not regulated by a standard general or individual consumptive use permit limits irrigation to before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., with a few exceptions. Additional conservation provisions are proposed to this rule. Listed below are highlights of the proposed changes.

Changes

- ▶ The rule would be expanded to also apply to reclaimed water and storm water, two sources which are currently exempt.
- ▶ Irrigation, including micro-irrigation, would be limited to only that needed to meet efficient irrigation needs.
- ▶ Chemigation and fertigation would be allowed on any day but limited to one time per week, and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

- ▶ Watering in of chemicals could not exceed ¼ inch of water per application except as otherwise required by law, the manufacturer or best management practices.
- ▶ Operation of irrigation systems for maintenance and repair would be allowed at any time of day but no more than one time per week. Operation could not exceed 10 minutes per hour per zone.

NOTE: Additional changes are proposed to the rule. Please review all proposed changes at www.sjrwmd.com/irrigationrule.

Public workshops

Public workshops will be held to provide information about the proposed rule amendments and to obtain public comment on the proposed changes.

- ▶ June 18, 2008, 1 p.m., Seminole County Commission Chambers, 1101 E. First St., Sanford, FL
- ▶ June 19, 2008, 10 a.m., Indian River County Commission Chambers, 1801 27th St., Building A, Vero Beach, FL
- ▶ July 1, 2008, 10 a.m., Department of Environmental Protection, 7825 Baymeadows Way, rooms A and B, Jacksonville, FL
- ▶ July 3, 2008, 10 a.m., Lake County Commission Chambers, 315 W. Main St., Tavares, FL

Public comments

Comments regarding the proposed rule amendments should be submitted to Norma Messer, rules coordinator, Office of General Counsel, St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177-2529, (386) 329-4459, e-mail nmesser@sjrwmd.com.



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