

# WATCH the WEATHER

Wait to Water



Whether sprinkling water comes from a municipal supply, a well or another source, it's still ultimately drawn from one big Florida "pool." To share the resource, Floridians need to conserve water. Overwatering your landscape wastes both water and money.

## How LONG should I wait to water after it rains?

When your lawn experiences finding its own source of water supply, the roots reach deeper into the soil to find it. Let the lawn stress a bit before turning the sprinklers back on after rainfall.



## What is the BEST time of day to water?



Morning hours between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. are the best time to water the lawn because the air is cooler and there's not much wind to blow the droplets.

## How MUCH water is enough?

When watering turf grass, water thoroughly –  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch – to reach deeper portions of the soil. Decrease watering time during cool or humid conditions and skip a scheduled watering after a moderate rainfall.



Residents who irrigate their lawns are encouraged to take advantage of the summer rains and “watch the weather, wait to water.”

During the months of July, August and September, yards need no more than 3/4 inch of water every two to three days. If your lawn has received enough water from rainfall, then you can turn off your irrigation system and turn it back on when needed. The simplest way to determine if your yard needs water is to look for these visual clues:

- Grass blades are folded in half lengthwise on at least one-third of your yard.
- Grass blades appear blue-gray.
- Grass blades do not spring back, leaving footprints on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

Follow these tips when you “watch the weather, wait to water”:

- If your yard is showing signs that it needs water, check your local forecast to see if rain is on the way.
- Use a rain gauge to determine how much rain your yard has received.
- If you have a rain sensor, make sure that it is working properly.
- Take full advantage of the rain. Make sure gutter downspouts are directed into landscaped areas or lawn.
- Install a rain barrel to capture excess rainwater.

For additional water conservation tips, visit [CFWIWater.com](http://CFWIWater.com)



[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)



[watermatters.org](http://watermatters.org)



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

The CFWI encompasses five counties: Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Seminole. The state’s water experts project that this region will need an additional 300 million gallons of water per day by 2035. Through the CFWI, three water management districts — South Florida, Southwest Florida and St. Johns River — are working collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders to implement effective water resource planning, including water resource and supply development and management strategies to protect, conserve and restore our water resources. To learn more, please visit [cfwiwater.com](http://cfwiwater.com).