

Lawn & Landscape Irrigation

Because Marion County receives an average of 53 inches of rain each year, it may not seem necessary to conserve water to preserve a supply for future generations. But, only a little more than 10 inches of water seeps into the ground to replenish the Floridan aquifer, which is the source of water for drinking and irrigation.

More than half of residential water use occurs outdoors. Wise watering promotes healthier lawns and landscapes and preserves our water resources.



Drought Conditions

Smart irrigation is especially important this year, because Marion County is suffering drought conditions, according to several indicators used by water resource professionals.

One of them, the U.S. Drought Monitor, characterizes conditions in Marion County as “abnormally dry” in the southeastern half of the County to “moderate drought” in the northeastern half of the County.

The Drought Monitor is compiled by 250 scientists from across the United States.

Watering Restrictions

To help conserve and protect our water resources, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a Water Conservation Ordinance for landscape irrigation that includes restrictions.

Lawn and landscape watering for homes and businesses currently is limited to one day per week, following this schedule:

Addresses Ending In	Irrigation Day
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8, 9 or no address	Friday

Watering Times

Property Size	Watering Times
Less than 2 acres	Before 8 a.m. & after 6 p.m.
2 acres or more	Before 10 a.m. & after 4 p.m.

Exceptions

There are exceptions to the watering limits:

- Hand watering with an automatic shut-off nozzle is allowed any time.
- Use of a micro-irrigation system is allowed any time.
- Irrigation is allowed more than one day per week during the initial establishment or renovation of a lawn or landscape, although some restrictions still apply.
- Waivers from specific day-of-week limitations may be granted if the restrictions pose an undue hardship. Waivers must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. They should be submitted to the Permitting Division in the Transportation Department.

Who's Affected?

The watering restrictions apply to all residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas of Marion County, regardless of whether water comes from a utility provider, private well or other source. Restrictions do NOT apply to the use of reclaimed water.

For Additional Information

For a copy of the Water Conservation Ordinance for Landscape Irrigation, click on the Marion County Web site www.marioncountyfl.org. Or, call (352) 671-8686 for a copy of the ordinance and waiver requests.

For further information, visit www.watermatters.org or call (800) 848-0499. For questions, call (800) 423-1476, ext. 4498 or email water.restrictions@watermatters.org.

