

**LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION and FERTILIZER
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. Q: When can I water my lawn?

A: March-November (Daylight Savings Time)

- ▶ No watering from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ▶ Odd number addresses, or addresses ending with letters N-Z, or no address may water only on Wed and Sat
- ▶ Even number addresses or those ending with A-M may water only on Thurs and Sun
- ▶ Non-residential addresses may water only on Tues and Friday
- ▶ Apply up to 3/4-inch or less of water each cycle

A: November – March (Standard Time)

- ▶ No watering from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ▶ Odd number addresses, or addresses ending with letters N-Z, or no address may water only on Sat
- ▶ Even number addresses or those ending with A-M may water only on Sun
- ▶ Non-residential addresses may water only on Tues
- ▶ Apply up to 3/4-inch or less of water one time per week

2. Q: What is an Odd number address?

A: An Odd number address is a street address whereby the numeric part of the address is an odd number (i.e. 103 John Doe Street) or the alpha-numeric part of the address ends with any of the letters N through Z (i.e. 104-N John Doe Street).

3. Q: What is an Even number address?

A: An Even number address is a street address whereby the numeric part of the address is an even number (108 John Doe Street) or the alpha-numeric part of the street address ends with any of the letters A through M (i.e. 109A John Doe Street).

4. Q: Can hand-watering of turf and ornamental plants be performed anytime?

A: Yes, hand-watering with or without automatic shutoff nozzle can be done anytime.

5. Q: What City of Jacksonville rules and regulations govern irrigation and fertilization?

A: Chapter 366 Ordinance Code. In particular, irrigation is governed by Section 366.500 and fertilization by Section 366.600 of the Code.

6. Q: How can I get a copy of this ordinance?

A: Go to www.coj.net and look in the site index for ordinance code....clicking there will take you to Jacksonville's ordinances on municode.com. You can scroll down until you get to Chapter 366.

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7. Q: How can I get an electronic copy of the irrigation and fertilizer brochure that summarizes key points of the ordinance?

A: It is available on-line at www.coj.net, Keyword search "Irrigation or "Fertilizer."

8. Q: Can violators of the irrigation schedule and fertilization practices be fined?

A: Yes, violators of the irrigation schedule and fertilizer ordinance requirements may be issued a warning or a ticket (\$50 or \$250) or be subject to other enforcement action(s).

9. Q: Do the irrigation schedules apply to irrigation from private irrigation wells?

A: Yes, irrigation schedules apply to all landscaping regardless of the water source.

10. Q: Can new landscape be irrigated at anytime?

A: Yes, new landscape can be irrigated for 30 days anytime and every other day for 30 additional days if needed.

11. Q: Can the irrigation system be turned-on for testing during system maintenance and repairs?

A: Yes, the irrigation system can be turned-on for testing during system maintenance and repair for 20 minutes per zone.

12. Q: Are there exceptions to the landscape irrigation schedule?

A: Yes, irrigation is allowed anytime provided the water sources are from one of the following systems: water to air heating or cooling units, hand-held irrigation system using shutoff nozzle, or micro-irrigation system (water application at the roots, or using soak/drip/small spray heads).

13. Q: In what instances is the irrigation of the landscape allowed any day before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.?

A: Irrigation of landscape is allowed any day before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. provided the water is from reclaimed water, recycled water (stormwater), or from wet detention ponds if not augmented from other sources. If water from a wet detention pond is used, approval is required from the appropriate agency, usually Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) or St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD).

14. Q: Can too much water damage the turf or the ornamental plants?

A: Over watering promotes shallow root systems, makes grass and plants susceptible to diseases and pests.

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15. Q: How do I calibrate my system for 3/4 - inch?

A: Measure how much water your sprinkler is applying by placing some straight sided cans, tuna cans work great, to catch the water. Run the system long enough to collect a measurable quantity and note the time required. Adjust your run time so you do not exceed more than 3/4 -inch of water. For more information, go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/LH026>.

16. Q: How do I use less water in my landscape?

A: Choose the right plants for the right place, and apply the right amount of water. For more information go to: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ENH1113>.

17. Q: When are my days to water if I live in a condominium or apartment and we are all on the irrigation system zone?

A: Use the physical address for the complex. If there is not an on-site management office, use “no address” option.

18. Q: I have a vegetable garden that needs irrigation more frequently than twice each week. What are my options?

A: You can water anytime if you use a soaker hose, drip irrigation, or a hand-held hose with an automatic shut-off valve.

19. Q: I want to install low volume irrigation in my plant beds. How do I do this?

A: There are kits available in most garden centers that are easy to install. For more information refer to this publication: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE222>

20. Q: I do not want to waste water, but I am afraid to take a chance that it will rain before my next scheduled watering day. How can I decide if my irrigation system needs to run on each of my scheduled days?

A: If the soil is moist and the plants show no sign of drought stress, you could probably wait to run the irrigation system the next scheduled time. Also, if there is a front moving into our area and rain is definite, you could skip watering your plants. Too much water is worse for plants than too little water. You can always hand-water to help plants through a dry spell if the rain doesn't materialize. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP054>

21. Q: I really want to save money on my water bill and make my landscape more drought-tolerant. What should I do?

A: A great place to start is to contact the Duval Extension Office at 387-8850. They have several publications that may be helpful. Drought tolerant plants: <http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/wwefiles/ww-e-drought-tol-plants-web.pdf>

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22. Q: I have an irrigation system but do not know how to operate the days and times. Do you have information that can help me?

A: All systems are a little bit different; the following reference may be helpful.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP235>

23. Q: My irrigation system was installed after May 1, 1991. Based on the Irrigation Ordinance, I should have a functional rain sensor device. What is this and how do I know if it works?

A: If your irrigation system was installed after May 1, 1991, you are required to have a functional rain sensor device. This device will override the irrigation system if there is sufficient rainfall. Please refer to the web-site below for more information:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE221>

24. Q: Can I water in my fertilizer or pesticide after application?

A: Yes, you are encouraged to water in fertilizers with one quarter inch of water within 24 hours of application. Pesticides should also be watered in using one quarter inch of water if it is required on the pesticide label or by your pest control operator.

25. Q: What kind of turf fertilizer should I use?

A: Consider buying package lawn fertilizer with at least 50% of the nitrogen in slow-release form. The three numbers in bold letters on most fertilizer bags represent Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium respectively. Use fertilizer with Nitrogen to Potassium ratio of 1:1 or 2:1. The middle number, Phosphorous, should be between zero (0) to 2. See the label for usage.

26. Q: What setting should I use on my spreader?

A: Most fertilizer product label contains directions for determining the settings for your spreader.

27. Q: Can I store unused fertilizer for next year?

A: Yes, unused fertilizer can be stored and reused provided the bag is properly closed and stored in a dry place. Be sure to breakup any clumps before placing in the spreader.

28. Q: When should I apply fertilizer?

A: You can apply fertilizer anytime during the growing season from March to October. It is recommended withholding application of fertilizer to a lawn that is experiencing stress from prolonged periods of summer heat and drought.

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29. Q: I am planning to de-thatch my lawn. Should I apply fertilizer before or after I de-thatch?

A: Apply fertilizer after you de-thatch.

30. Q: What is a fertilizer-free zone?

A. Fertilizer-free zone is a 10-foot zone within any water body or wetland where fertilizer may not be applied. Fertilizer must not be applied to impervious (non-porous) surfaces.

31. Q: What is a low maintenance - zone?

A: Low maintenance-zone is a six-foot zone of landscape planting or ground cover that does not require intensive fertilizer, watering and mowing, adjacent to water bodies.

32. Q: I use reclaimed water for my landscape irrigation. Do I need to still use fertilizer on my lawn?

A. Reclaimed water has nitrogen and phosphorous in its content; the fertilizer needed for your landscape may be very little or none.