

**City of Jacksonville – Landscape Irrigation and Fertilizer  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. 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.
2. Q: Does the Landscape Irrigation Schedule Ordinance (Sec. 366.500) apply to all of Duval County?
- A: No, this ordinance applies to the General Services District excluding Urban Services Districts 2, 3, 4 and 5. Please use the following contacts for the Beaches and Baldwin to report irrigation violations:
- Jacksonville Beach: (904) – 247 - 6100
- Neptune Beach: (904) – 270 - 2400
- Atlantic Beach: (904) – 247 - 5800
- Baldwin: (904) – 904-266-5031
3. Q: How can I get a copy of this ordinance?
- A: Go to [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net) and look in the site index for ordinance code....clicking there will take you to Jacksonville's ordinances on [municode.com](http://municode.com). You can scroll down until you get to Chapter 366 or go to [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net), Keyword search “Irrigation or Fertilizer”.
4. 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](http://www.coj.net), Keyword search “Irrigation or Fertilizer.”
5. 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).
6. 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

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7. 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).

8. 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).

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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).

14. 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).

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15. 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.

16. 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>.

17. 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>.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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>

21. 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>

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22. 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/wwe-drought-tol-plants-web.pdf>

23. 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>

24. 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 (Note Ch 373.62 F.S. was changed in 2009 to remove this exemption)

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

25. 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.

26. 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.

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

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

28. 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.

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29. 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.

30. Q: What can I do if I observed someone blowing off, sweeping or washing fertilizer, vegetative debris or grass clippings onto impervious surfaces, stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, wetlands, sidewalks or roadways?

A If you do observe someone blowing off, sweeping or washing fertilizer, vegetative debris or grass clippings onto impervious surfaces, stormwater drains, ditches, conveyances, water bodies, wetlands, sidewalks or roadways, please call (904) – 630 – CITY (2489) to report the violation. The inspector will come out to investigate. The three step process is: warning, \$50 ticket, \$250 ticket.

Note, it is also prohibited to put any kind of debris, oil, gas or paint into stormwater conveyances or stormwater drains.

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. Q: What is the fee to apply for an Irrigation Variance?

A: \$150 non-refundable application fee

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36. Q: Where can I obtain the irrigation variance application form?

A: The form can be obtained at the Environmental Quality Division office, 214 North Hogan Street, Suite 700, Jacksonville, Florida 32202. The office can be reached at (904) – 255 – 7100 or go to [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net), Keyword search, “Irrigation or Fertilizer”.

37. Q: How long will an approved irrigation variance permit be good for?

A: Since the variance is granted to property owner, it is valid until the property is transferred to a new owner.

38. Q: Who will be issuing the irrigation variance permits?

A: The Environmental Protection Board (EPB) of the City of Jacksonville reviews the Irrigation Variance application and determines whether the variance should be granted. The applicant must appear at a workshop before the EPB’s Water Committee and at a public hearing at the full EPB meeting the following month. The EPB’s administrator can be contacted at (904) 255-7100.

39. Q: I am unable to irrigate on my scheduled day(s). Do I need to apply for an irrigation variance? What can I do to comply with the irrigation schedule?

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).

Irrigation variances are sometimes given where it is needed to change days in unusual cases or where a parcel is so large that can not be completely irrigated on days specified in the City of Jacksonville irrigation schedule. In most cases an alternative to a variance can be found. For example, timers can be installed on the irrigation pump or hose bib for automatic control, or sprinkler heads that travel along irrigation hose can solve many problems.

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40. Q: I can not afford to purchase a timer for my irrigation pump. What can I do to comply with the rules?

On a case-by-case basis, the irrigation variance application will be reviewed for hardship cases. You may be required to submit your last three income tax forms with the applicable W-2 forms to determine if the applicant is financial handicapped.

41. Q: I irrigate the lawn and other plants with the water from my water to air heating or cooling units. Is this allowable?

A: Yes, water from the water to air heating or cooling units can be used to irrigate the lawn and other plants. It is recommended you contact the Groundwater Section at (904) 255-7100 and request an appointment to get a small placard to place on your property to minimize potential complaints.

42. Q: I irrigate the lawn and other plants with the reclaimed water. Is this acceptable?

A: Yes, reclaimed water is acceptable for irrigation any day of the week except during the hours between 10 AM and 4 PM.