

City of Punta Gorda

Irrigation Schedule

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has declared a "Phase II (Severe Water Shortage) Order which goes into effect January 16, 2007 and will remain in place until February 27, 2009 unless otherwise modified or rescinded by the SWFWMD Governing Board.

Addresses with house numbers...	May only irrigate on....
Ending in 0 or 1	Monday
Ending in 2 or 3	Tuesday
Ending in 4 or 5	Wednesday
Ending in 6 or 7	Thursday
Ending in 8 or 9	Friday
Locations where no address can be determined may water on Friday	

- Restrictions apply to all water sources (i.e., wells, ponds, etc.)
- Irrigation for residential, commercial & agricultural uses is limited to one (1) days per week.
- Properties under two acres in size may only water before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- Properties two acres or larger may only water before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- On each allowable watering day only 3/4 inch of water is to be applied to each zone.
- These restrictions do NOT apply to hand watering or low volume watering of flowerbeds, gardens or individual plants.
- Newly established lawns may be watered on any day for a 60-day establishment period but MUST abide by the time restrictions.
- Car washing is limited to once per week; however, fundraiser events are still allowed.
- Reduce off-site discharge and mobile equipment washing.
- Fountains and other aesthetic-only water features may only operate 8 hours per day.
- Chemicals (including but not limited to insecticides and herbicides) may be watered in only when specified by the manufactures label recommendations and when required by law. Such watering in shall be limited to the minimum necessary and should be accomplished during the hours allowed by the irrigation schedule.

For complete details or to ask questions about these restrictions, visit the District's website at [www.swfwmd.state.fl.us](http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us) or call 1-800-484-0499 or 1-800-423-1476, extension 4498, during normal business hours.

Make every drop count! Save Water in Punta Gorda

City of Punta Gorda  
 Utility Department  
 326 W. Marion Avenue  
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950



HELP SAVE OUR DRINKING WATER

TIPS TO CONSERVE WATER



City of Punta Gorda



Southwest Florida Water Management District



PRSR STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Punta Gorda, FL  
 Permit No. 163



The water source for the City of Punta Gorda is Shell/Prairie Creek. During times of drought this natural water system is affected. Using water wisely is a habit we all can practice year-round and not just in time of drought. There are ways we can conserve inside and outside the home. Here are some suggestions for saving water in Punta Gorda.

## Save it Outside

More than 50 percent of residential water consumption is used for irrigation. Because of this, there is a great potential to reduce the amount of water used on landscapes.

Did you know that applying one inch of water, uses over 600 gallons per 1,000 square feet? Thus, a fairly small lawn (40 x 100 ft or 4,000 square ft) might receive 2,500 gallons of water in a single irrigation. Skipping the irrigation of this lawn just once saves enough water to meet the indoor consumption needs of ten houses for one day.

### Does your landscape need water?

Water requirements of plants vary with the plant, soil, type, location, weather and the time of year.

### Points to consider:

- Some established drought tolerant plants may not need supplemental irrigation. Bahia grass, for example, can be maintained without irrigation for much of the year, while St. Augustine grass will require periodic irrigation.
- Some soils retain more moisture than others. Sandy soils hold little water. Adding organic matter into soil increases its ability to hold moisture.
- Water evaporates faster in sunny areas than shady. Less water evaporates on cloudy days than clear days.
- The frequency of irrigation should be adjusted according to the season. Without rain, once-a-week irrigation during warm months is usually adequate for most established trees and shrubs. Once every two weeks should suffice December through February.

### How much water does my landscape need?

- Irrigate lawns and landscape plants on an "as needed" basis, as little as possible.
- For most plants, apply 3/4 inch of water whenever you irrigate.

### When should I water?

Year round outdoor watering restrictions are in place in Punta Gorda. Use water wisely and irrigate your landscape only during the times allowed and only if your landscape needs it. Over-watering can cause root rot and foliar fungal diseases in plants.



*Plant native & drought-tolerant shrubs & trees. Don't over water your yard.*

**INSTALL A RAIN SENSOR**

### How much water does an automatic irrigation system apply?

*Six simple steps to calibrate your system.*

1. Place straight-sided cans, like tuna cans, in scattered locations within the irrigation zone.
2. Run the zone for exactly 15 minutes.
3. Measure the water in each container.
4. Determine the average amount captured by the containers. Then multiply by four to determine the number of inches applied per hour for that zone.
5. Repeat for each irrigation zone.
6. Set each zone to run long enough to apply 3/4 inch of water per irrigation event.

### Landscape water conservation tips from the City of Punta Gorda:

- Calibrate your irrigation system to water by amount (3/4 inch per watering) instead of by estimating by time.
- Make sure you have a functioning rain shut-off device on all automatic lawn irrigation systems.
- Use mulch liberally around plants to conserve moisture.
- Inspect irrigation systems to see that they are functioning properly and not over spraying onto roads, sidewalks & driveways.
- Convert tree and shrub zones to low volume micro-irrigation.
- Irrigate grass only when it starts to wilt.
- Defer installation of sod until the rainy season begins. Reduce amount of existing grass.
- Install drought-tolerant plants such as oaks, palms, lantana, crape myrtle and many perennials.
- Irrigate shrub/tree beds separately from turf. They need water less often.
- Group plants with similar water requirements together.

### Are irrigation systems required to have a rain sensor device?

Yes, Florida Statute 373.62 requires that all automatic lawn sprinkler systems installed after 1991 have a rain sensor device or switch to override the irrigation cycle during a rainfall. To help retrofit systems installed prior to 1992, the city will reimburse homeowners up to \$40.00 for the purchase and installation of an automatic rain sensing shut-off device. For more information on this program please contact the City of Punta Gorda Utilities Department at 941-575-3339.

suggestions may require a change in daily habits. Decide now to do at least one thing to conserve indoors. Enlist other family members to do the same. It's easy. Start today.

- Take short showers instead of baths. Showers use an average of 5 to 7 gallons per minute, three times less than the water used to take a bath.
- Turn off the faucet! Don't let the water run while doing dishes, brushing teeth, or shaving.
- Check to see if your plumbing has any hidden leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you have a leak.
- Toilets can have "silent" leaks. To find out if your toilet is leaking, add a little food coloring to the tank. If you see the color in the bowl 30 minutes later, your toilet is leaking. If you have a leak, replace the toilet flapper.
- Replace a high-low toilet with one using 1.6 gallons or less per flush. Homeowners can save about 15 gallons of water per person per day. Houses built before 1990 may have toilets using 3.5 or more gallons per flush.
- Install a toilet dam or displacement device like a bag or bottle to decrease the amount of water needed for flushing.
- Replace your shower heads with an ultra-low flow model. This will cut water use to less than 3 gallons per minute and still provide an invigorating flow. Most homeowners have no trouble replacing old, wasteful showerheads.
- Install aerators on all household faucets. These inexpensive devices can reduce water use up to 60 percent, while maintaining a strong flow.
- Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.
- If you wash dishes by hand don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with rinse water.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking.



*Don't let the water run when you brush your teeth or wash your face.*



*Run only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.*

## Save it Inside

Everyone can conserve water indoors. Some of the following