

# A FEW WATERING TIPS

## How Much Water is Enough?

Efficient watering wets only the turf grass root zone, does not saturate the soil and does not run off.

Here's a sample watering schedule: Apply 1/2 to 3/4 inches of water 2 to 3 times weekly in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter. If it rains, sprinkling should be suspended according to the rainfall amount. A rain sensor must be installed on irrigation systems to suspend irrigation during rainfall events.

## CHECK THE VITAL SIGNS

Your lawn won't speak, but will give off silent screams when it has too much or too little water. When out in the yard, check the vital signs. Look for areas that may show signs of:

- Excessive moisture
- Standing water, or
- Yellowing of the leaf areas

One way to reduce the root rot is to reduce the amount of water you apply during rainy periods, permitting the soil to dry.



Excessive rainfall, combined with a heavy watering schedule, can displace the small pockets of air between the soil particles, not allowing excess water to penetrate the soil surface. If these conditions exist for an extended time, plant roots remove all oxygen from the water in the soil and the roots cannot breathe. The root dies from lack of oxygen, leading to fungal root rot which eventually kills the plant.

RESUME WATERING WHEN - the lawn begins to show these signs of stress:

- Slight wilting
- Leaf blades folded in half or curled
- Footprints remain in the grass longer, or
- Gray spots in the lawn

## MULCHING & LANDSCAPING

The use of mulch, rock and ground cover can enhance your outdoor living space as well as add beauty and character to the landscape. Careful selection and proper application of these materials can reduce maintenance time, conserve water and provide color contrast to landscaping.



## Reclaimed Water History

Reclaimed water irrigation has occurred for many years in California, Colorado, Arizona, and Hawaii. In Florida, cities such as Sanford, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Orlando/Orange County, Cocoa Beach, St. Petersburg, Manatee County, Ormond Beach, and DeLand, among others, have been promoting the benefits of irrigating with reclaimed water.

**The Florida Department of Environmental Protection strongly supports Reclaimed Water.**

The FDEP has found that reclaimed water is good for irrigating, and has mandated utilities throughout Florida to develop positive reclaimed water alternatives such as DeLand's Reclaimed Water Program. Reclaimed Water will help keep future City rates as low as possible.

Former U.S. Senator Bob Graham once said that "Water is Florida's most critical resource." Irrigating with reclaimed water is one method of conserving our valuable water resources as well as protecting the environment for our children.



## RECLAIMED WATER



This brochure has been prepared to provide you information regarding the City of DeLand reclaimed water system and the requirements for irrigating with reclaimed water to ensure our water users are informed about the origin, nature, and characteristics in which our reclaimed water can be safely used.

For additional information regarding DeLand's Reclaimed Water Program, please contact:  
**Alex Konoval, Environmental Compliance Mgr.** at (386) 626-7254.

## What is Reclaimed Water?

Reclaimed water is the result of wastewater which has been highly treated and disinfected and reused. Reclaimed water is essentially free of bacteria and viruses. Reclaimed water is ideal for irrigation, but not suitable for human or animal consumption.

No negative effects have been noted or reported as a result of exposure to reclaimed water. However, remember that: (1) irrigation should occur at a time when human or animal contact is least likely; and (2) the effectiveness of any program relies on people, equipment and good common sense.

## Why Use Reclaimed Water?

### Reclaimed Water Helps You Conserve!

- As the demand for fresh water increases in Florida and around the globe, the challenge to develop alternative water sources to satisfy future needs has become critical. Using reclaimed water reduces the demand on the Floridian Aquifer, our primary fresh water source.

### Reclaimed Water for Irrigation is Required

- by the St. Johns River Water Management District as a condition of the City's Consumptive Use Permit for withdrawal of fresh water from the Floridian Aquifer for public consumption.



### Reclaimed Water Helps You Save Money

- After the initial investment for the connection, irrigating with reclaimed water may significantly reduce your monthly utility bill. Additional savings come from delaying the costs for the City to research and develop new fresh water sources.

### Reclaimed Water Helps You Save the Environment

- by reducing the discharge of effluent to the river and through recharging the groundwater supply.

How to Connect to the Reclaimed Water System

## Step 1: Apply for a Connection Permit

You may request an application or obtain one from the Building Department. Once completed, the application is processed by the permit clerk for fee and payment. Contact the Building Department at (386) 626-7009 for more information.

## Step 2: Pay Connection Fee

A one time connection fee determined by meter size will be collected by the City of DeLand Building Division. The fee must be paid in full prior to issuance of the connection permit.

## Step 3: Select a Contractor

You must choose an Irrigation or Plumbing Contractor licensed to perform the activities in Volusia County, or perform the work yourself if you are a homeowner.



Please contact the Volusia County Department of Heath Eng. Dept. at (386) 822-6250 to verify that the contractor meets the County's license requirements.

\*Please note that FDEP regulations require reclaimed piping and sprinkler heads to be purple in color and a backflow prevention device must be installed on each potable water connection.

## Step 4: Obtain Service

After the work as been completed, a plumbing inspection must be requested from the Volusia County Health Department. If the connection requires no modifications, the Utilities Division will be notified. After notification, a service technician will activate your system. Billing will be effective as of that date. After connection, you will be charged the current applicable rate per 1000 gallons used. Reclaimed is currently **exempt** from the St. Johns River Water Management District's and County watering restrictions.

Reclaimed Watering Restrictions			
Time of Year	Odd Numbered Houses or No Address	Even Numbered Houses	Non- Residential Properties
Daylight Savings Time	RECLAIMED WATERING RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. RECLAIMED WATER MAY BE USED AT ANYTIME ON ANY DAY. PLEASE REFRAIN VOLUNTARILY FROM USING IT BETWEEN 10AM-4PM.		
Eastern Standard Time			

## USES NOT PERMITTED

**NO** consumption of reclaimed water (Human or Animal).

**NO** connection to a dwelling for toilet flushing or other household usage.

**NO** interconnection with another water source.

**NO** sprinkling of edible crops (watering roots is acceptable).

**NO** use for body-contact recreation.

**NO** use through non-lockable hose bibs, faucets, couplers or hoses, etc.

**NO** filling of swimming pools.

**NO** sharing a common reclaimed service or connection between properties.

**NO** filling of decorative pools or fountains.

**NO** supplying air cooling systems (a/c units)

**NO** residential washing of equipment such as cars, boats, driveways, structures, etc.