

# Golf Courses

Southwest Florida  
Water Management District  
WATERMATTERS.ORG • 1-800-423-1476

## Phase 1 (Moderate Water Shortage) Water Restrictions & Year-Round Water Conservation Measures

### FACT SHEET

#### KEY FACTS:

- Some golf courses, especially newer ones, use reclaimed water. In this way, they are conserving higher quality water for public supply and agricultural needs.
- Most golf courses have Water Use Permits; these permits have annual quantities that act as “water budgets” and other stringent water conservation requirements that must be followed at all times.
- Whether or not a Water Use Permit is involved, any non-play area associated with the golf course (such as lawn and landscape for the entrance and clubhouse grounds) must follow the applicable lawn and landscape irrigation schedule (District or local, whichever is more restrictive).

#### WATERING TIMES AND OTHER LIMITATIONS:

- Normal supplemental irrigation may only occur before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- If a golf course is in full compliance with its Water Use Permit, it does not need to also follow the watering limitations shown below.
- If a golf course without a permit is not using 100% reclaimed water, it must either follow the University of Florida's "Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses" publication (and produce a copy of it upon request) or follow all details listed below.
- Fairways and driving ranges may be watered no more than two times each week.
- Tees and greens may be watered no more than three times per week.
- Spot treatment and syringing to address an isolated hot, dry area is allowed.
- Irrigation of tees and greens to prevent heat stress or freeze damage is allowed.
- Irrigation related to overseeding as part of a fall transition program is allowed.
- New plant establishment, chemical applications, irrigation system maintenance and other special water uses may follow the standard allowances for those specific practices (please refer to detailed fact sheets for these topics).
- During a Phase I water shortage declaration, prepare for possible worsening conditions. At a minimum, this means each property should test and repair or adjust each irrigation system to address broken pipes and other leaks, damaged or tilted sprinkler heads, and other sources of water waste.

#### General Information

Stricter local ordinances may apply, so be sure to also check with your local water utility. If you have any questions about how these or other year-round water conservation measures apply to your facility, please call 1-800-848-0499 during normal business hours or send an inquiry to [Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.org](mailto:Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.org).