

FACT SHEET

Agriculture (Including Household and Community Farms)

Year-Round Water Conservation Measures

Major agricultural crops in the Southwest Florida Water Management District include citrus, tomato, and strawberry. **Plant nurseries and sod farming are also forms of agriculture.** Agriculture encompasses the production of various plants and animals useful to humans, including: aquaculture, horticulture, zoological and botanical specimen exhibits, viticulture, forestry, dairy, livestock, pasture, poultry, and bees. The care of lawn and non-edible landscape areas is not considered to be agriculture; however, the care of vegetable gardens and fruit trees that are irrigated separately from lawn and landscape areas does qualify to follow water use restrictions for agriculture.

KEY FACTS:

- Some farms and other agricultural operations use reclaimed water. In this way, they are conserving higher quality water for public supply needs.
- Large agricultural operations are required to have Water Use Permits; these permits have annual "water budgets" and other stringent water conservation requirements that must always be followed.
- If an agricultural operation is not using 100% reclaimed water and is small enough to not be required to have a Water Use Permit, it must follow the watering times and other limitations listed below.
- Whether or not a Water Use Permit is involved, any non-production area of the property (such as a decorative-only entrance or the farm house's yard) must follow the applicable lawn and landscape irrigation schedule.

WATERING TIMES AND OTHER LIMITATIONS:

- Normal supplemental irrigation must occur before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. on any day.
- Water use essential to fish production, livestock and other animals is allowed.
- Microirrigation and other low-volume irrigation technology may be used at any time.
- Center pivot and traveling gun irrigation technology may be used at any time.
- Water use necessary for plant protection (such as to prevent freeze damage), chemical applications and irrigation system maintenance may occur as needed.
- Member nurseries of FNGLA and other parties with a valid variance from Chapter 40D-22, F.A.C., to follow a published "Best Management Practices" document for their crop shall follow all applicable water conservation practices in that document in lieu of following the limitations listed above.

General Information

Stricter local ordinances may apply, so be sure to also check with your local water utility. If you have any questions about these year-round water conservation measures, please e-mail the District at Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.Org any time or call 1-800-848-0499 during business hours.