

## INSTALLING NEW SOD OR LANDSCAPING?

The City of Apopka's Water Conservation Ordinance for Landscape Irrigation (Ord. 2172) provides an exception to the Watering Days Restrictions for the establishment of new landscaping. It allows for watering of new landscapes on any day for the first 30-days, provided that the irrigation is limited to the minimum amount necessary for such landscape establishment. Although this does give an exemption from receiving a water restriction violation, residents are not exempt from applicable water rates for water that is used. Please be advised that water rates increase as water usage increases and can result in a high bill. \*\*\*You can track your water consumption online at [www.apopka.net](http://www.apopka.net).

*\*This ordinance applies to both potable and reclaimed water customers.*

To establish a healthy landscape while continuing to conserve water and save \$\$, here is a basic watering schedule for new sod:

Generally, new sod will need to be watered 2-3 times daily for the first 7 – 10 days (light, shallow waterings to get the sod to start taking hold). The next 7-10 days, increase the watering time but only water once daily (this will get the roots to start growing deeper). Next, begin weaning the frequency of watering days down to every other day for the next week or 2 and then back to the 2-day/week schedule (or 1-day/week schedule during winter months). After establishment, watering on an as needed basis is the best method to follow.

**\*\*\*Scheduling may vary with environmental conditions and location and type of landscapes.**

### Additional Irrigation Tips

- **\*\*\* Be sure to let natural rainfall do the job when possible!**
- **\*\*\* It is best to irrigate established landscapes on an as needed basis and not on a “set and forget” timer schedule.**
- Be sure to check your system on a regular basis for leaks, clogs, misdirected sprays, turf and vegetation interference, etc.
- Do not water between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. This is the most inefficient time to irrigate because temperature (high evaporation rate) and wind speed (uneven distribution of water) are at their highest.
- In winter months when turf goes into a dormant stage, irrigation or rainfall is only needed once every 7 – 14 days. (When you don't need to mow your lawn as often, less frequency of water is needed)
- Additional information can be found on the University of Florida's websites at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh013> and <http://cfyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- To report new sod, schedule a free irrigation evaluation or for additional questions, contact the Public Services Department at 407-703-1731 or email [Jschilling@apopka.net](mailto:Jschilling@apopka.net) . For billing questions, contact 407-703-1727.