

Drought Conditions Lower Sunshine Water Control District's Canal Water Levels

06/18/15

The months of November-May are known as the dry season in Florida due to the minimal amounts of rainfall. Historically, we average only about 2 inches of monthly rainfall during this time. Sunshine's canal levels do recede and are lower than normal during these months.

This year, however, has been dryer than normal with less than 1 inch of average rainfall monthly in January, February and March, to date. The impact of less than normal rainfall and water evaporation due to high temperatures and windy conditions has further reduced water levels in many of our East Basin canals. Sunshine's East Basin canals are located in the general area east of University Drive from Sample to Wiles Roads.

Under a permit issued by the South Florida Water Management District, the Sunshine Water Control District can withdraw limited quantities of water from the South Florida Water Management Districts C-14 Canal to recharge the City's (drinking water) well field in the East Basin. The Sunshine District will take about 2/3 of its 262 million gallon annual allotment allowed under its permit by the end of March. This allotment helps replenish some of the water loss but the amounts are not sufficient to restore water levels in the drought affected canals.

The real and absolute solution to restoring water levels to our canals is by having more rain. The precipitation during our rainy season puts large volumes of water back into our canals, returning them to normal levels.

What can residents do to help now during these hot, dry drought conditions? One way is to only water lawns on the mandated two day per week schedule. By adhering to the 2 days per week Landscape Irrigation Schedule, less water is lost to evaporation and ground seepage. Also, report excess watering violations to the Code Compliance office, (954) 344-5964, to help conserve limited water resources. If we all do a little to conserve water, we can make a difference.

Landscape Irrigation Schedule

Residences and businesses with an odd-numbered street address may water lawns and landscapes on Wednesdays and/or Saturdays, only before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.

Residences and businesses with an even-numbered street address, no street address, or those who irrigate both even and odd addresses within the same zones, which may include multi-family units and homeowners associations, may water lawns and landscapes on Thursdays and/or Sundays, only before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.