

# THE BASICS OF HOME IRRIGATION

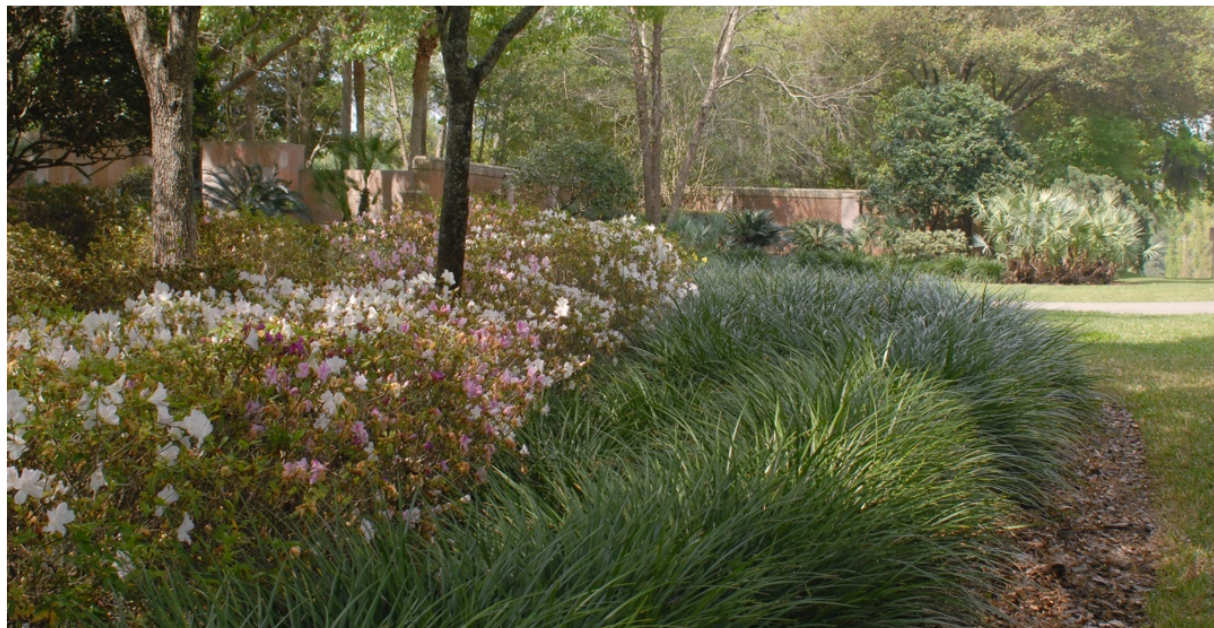
Southwest Florida  
*Water Management District*



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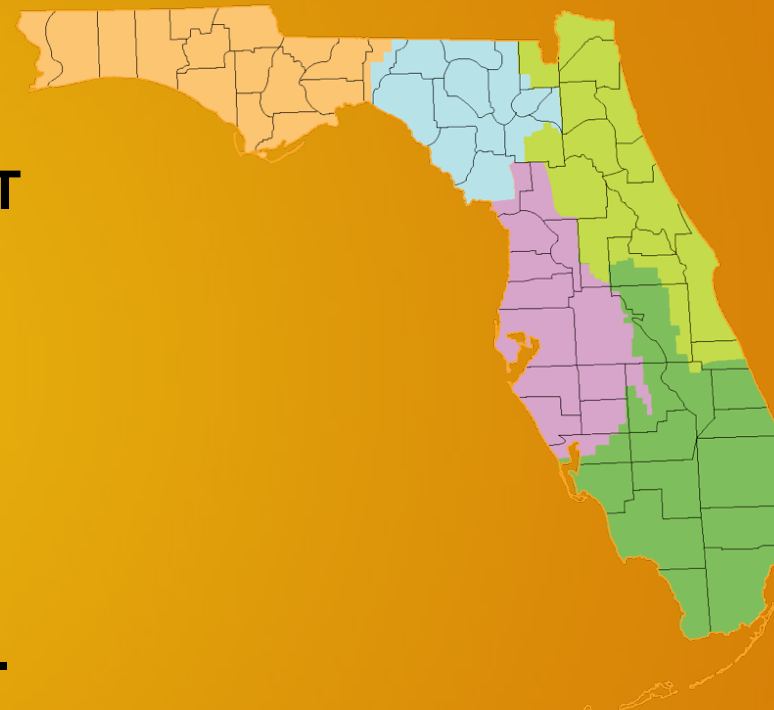


**Everyone wants a beautiful yard with lush, green grass, vibrant shrubs, and beautiful trees.**



# BEFORE WE START

**ALWAYS CHECK WITH  
YOUR LOCAL WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
TO MAKE SURE THERE  
ARE NO WATERING  
RESTRICTIONS IN  
EFFECT THAT SPECIFY  
WHICH DAYS OF THE  
WEEK YOU CAN WATER.**



**Go to [fawn.ifas.ufl.edu](http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu) for links to  
your water management district.**



# TIME CLOCK





# TIME CLOCK

**Become familiar with your time clock. Learn how to move it to the off position after a rain event – this simple task can save a tremendous amount of water... and money.**

**Your time clock needs to be told 3 important things.**

- **Which days to water**
- **What time to begin**
- **How long in each zone**

# TIME CLOCK (cont.)

## Which days to water:

- Operate manually during watering restriction
- Every 3-5 days in the summer
- Every 10-14 days in the winter

## However!

It's best to let your grass/plants tell you when to water. When 30% of the grass or leaves show wilt, they need water.



# TIME CLOCK (cont.)

**What time to begin:**

**Less evaporation occurs when you water:**

- **Early in the morning**
- **Late in the afternoon**
- **During the evening**

**Be sure to check your local watering restriction**



# TIME CLOCK (cont.)

**How long each zone should run:**

**Generally, 1/2 - 3/4 of an inch of water is enough to wet the root zone of your plants**





# APPLICATION RATE

- Try the following test to determine your irrigation system application rate.
- First, download the application rate form below this presentation.



# APPLICATION RATE (cont.)

- **Irrigation System Application rate Test:**
- **Place 5-10 tuna cans around your yard and run your system for 15 minutes**
- **Measure the amount collected in each can and calculate the average amount collected**

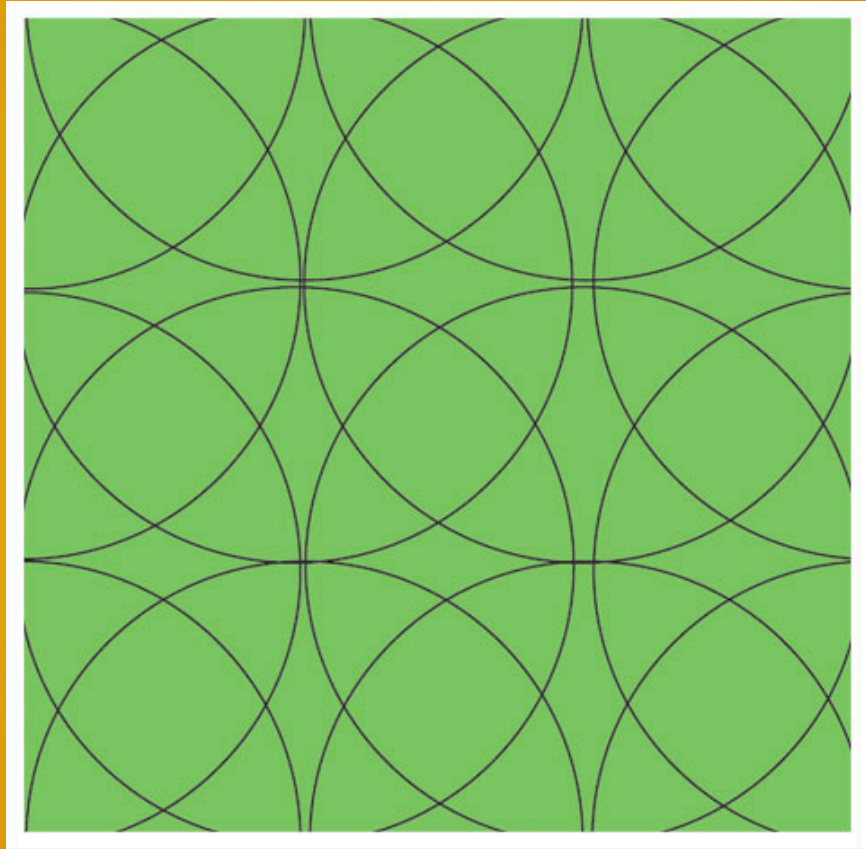


# APPLICATION RATE (cont.)

- Irrigation System Application rate Test:
- Adjust for hourly application rate by multiplying the average by 4.
- Enter your calculated rate into the downloaded form to determine your system run time.



# UNIFORMITY



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**A well design irrigation system will provide 100% coverage.**

- **Sprinklers will intersect**
- **Use your rate test to determine uniformity**
- **25% Variance is adequate**
- **Water should not come in contact with streets, driveways and non planted areas.**
- **Check Sprinkler heads for obstructions**



# RAIN SUTOFF SENSOR





# RAIN SHUTOFF SENSOR

- All irrigation systems installed after 1991 are required to have a rain shutoff sensor.
- If it's raining and your system is running, it's time to replace your sensor.
- Check your sensor for proper operation. If your sensor is working properly, it will not operate during rain events.



# RAIN SUTOFF SENSOR (cont.)

- During a rain event, use several tuna cans to collect a pre determined amount of water.
- Once that amount has been collected you can set your device to that amount, and manually engage your system.
- If the sensor is working properly, the system will not operate.



# MAINTENANCE



# MAINTENANCE (cont.)

## **Test Your System**

**Periodically run your system and inspect it for leaks and clogged hoses.**



# MAINTENANCE (cont.)

## **Adjust Sprinkler Heads**

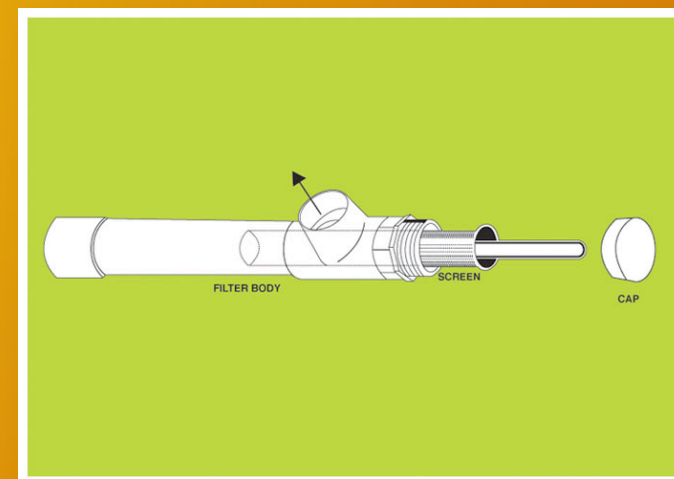
- Only watering your landscape and/or lawn
- Check Sprinkler head position at right angles to the ground
- Make sure Sprinkler heads deploy above the grass



# MAINTENANCE (cont.)

## Inspect and Clean Filters

- Sprinklers use filters to prevent spray nozzles from becoming clogged, so inspect them weekly, and clean or replace them as necessary.



# **MAINTENANCE** (cont.)

## **Inspect rain shutoff device**

**Make sure your rain shutoff sensor is exposed to unobstructed rainfall and away from the spray from the irrigation system.**

**Test with the method talked about on slide 16**



# MAINTENANCE (cont.)

## Check controller

As mentioned before, tell your time clock:

Which days to water, what time to begin, and how long in each zone.



# IN CONCLUSION

- **Water only when your plants and lawn need water.**
- **Make sure your system is applying the correct amount of water, and covers uniformly**
- **Maintain your system**
- **Understand your time clock**
- **Make sure your rain sensor is working properly**



# RESOURCES

For a list of resources visit the links section of the FAWN website at [fawn.ifas.ufl.edu](http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu)





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**FAWN thanks the Southwest Florida Water Management District for funding of this presentation, and for their ongoing support of the FAWN program.**

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