

Smart Irrigation Month

July is Smart Irrigation Month. The hottest time of year around the country is also a great time to improve your outdoor water-use practices. These helpful tips demonstrate how system design, landscaping, and scheduling can work together to save water.

Rain sensor. Install and/or check for a functioning rain sensor. A rain sensor is a device that will shut the irrigation system down during periods of adequate rainfall and is required on all systems by Florida Statute Chapter 373.62.

Seasonal adjustment. Be aware that time of year affects the growth rate and water demand of your landscape - so schedule watering accordingly.

No head mixing. Spray heads apply water 3 times as fast as rotor heads. When installed in the same zone, it is impossible to apply a uniform amount of water. Sprays and rotors should never be combined in the same zone.

Healthy turf. Often the most prevalent plant on a site, good turf management is beneficial to efficient irrigation. Keeping your South Florida lawn 3 to 4 inches high helps crowd out weeds and retain soil moisture – which may reduce the need for irrigation.

Hydro-zone. When designing a landscape, group plant life with similar water needs together in the landscape - in separate zones. A specific watering schedule for each unique zone can then be utilized.

Get weather-based. Weather-based irrigation controllers use local weather data and specific landscape conditions to tailor watering schedules - calculating when and how much to water. Look for the [EPA WaterSense™](#) label.

If you are ready to upgrade your home irrigation system to improve efficiency, Broward County partners with 11 water providers as part of the [Residential Irrigation Rebate Program](#) to provide rebates for the installation of EPA WaterSense-labeled devices. Some restrictions apply.