

## Helpful hints:



- Always use a shutoff nozzle on your hose that can be adjusted down to a fine spray so that water flows only as needed. When finished, turn it off at the spigot instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks. *A garden hose without a shutoff nozzle can pour out 530 gallons of water in an hour.*
- Do not leave sprinklers unattended. *Use a kitchen timer or alarm clock to remind you to turn your sprinkler off.*
- Calibrate your sprinklers to prevent over watering or flooding your lawn.
- Adjust any misaligned sprinkler heads that may have shifted and are watering the street, patio, sidewalks or driveway.
- Make sure that each sprinkler head is adjusted so when water sprays out it doesn't overlap the other zones. It should be spaced far enough apart so that the water spray barely touches the nearest zone.



## Hernando County Utilities

### Hours of Operation

Lobby Hours 8:00 am- 5:00 pm

Monday - Friday

### Administration Office:

21030 Cortez Blvd  
Brooksville Fl 34601  
Fax 352-754-4485

### Customer Service:

7429 Spring Hill Dr.  
Spring Hill Fl 34606  
Fax: 352-688-5012

Phone: 352-754-4037

[www.hernandocounty.us/utills](http://www.hernandocounty.us/utills)

### Other Sources

Southwest Florida Water Management  
800-423-1476 ext. 4757  
[www.WaterMatters.org](http://www.WaterMatters.org)

Hernando County Extension Office  
352-754-4433

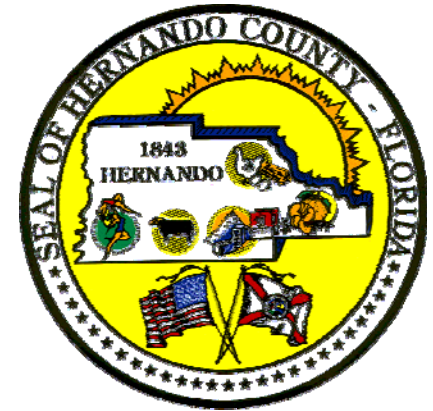
[www.co.hernando.fl.us/county.extension/fyn](http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/county.extension/fyn)

Florida Friendly Landscaping  
<http://www.floridayards.org>

## Give Your Sprinkler A Check-up



## Hernando County Utilities Department



*At Your Service*

PHONE: 352-754-4037

## Did you know?



**Normal wear and tear of your sprinkler system can lead to malfunctions and water waste.**

**Efficient water use requires simple, but on-going maintenance.**

### **Give Your Sprinkler System a Check-Up!**

Knowing the amount of water your sprinkler system applies to your lawn is an important step in efficient water use. Most people irrigate their lawn for a given number of minutes without knowing how much water they are really applying. This can lead to over and/or under-watering, neither of which will benefit the lawn.

#### **Perform Visual Inspection**

Perform a routine visual inspection of your sprinkler system to ensure that the system works properly. Look for broken, missing or worn out parts. Also check for any leaks and obstructed sprinkler heads (**make sure you have at least 3-4 inch pop-up sprinklers to fully clear tall grass**). Be sure to promptly fix any problems to avoid unnecessary and wasteful water usage.

- **Broken Sprinkler Heads** — Visual inspections of your lawn can identify malfunctioning sprinkler heads. Broken and malfunctioning sprinkler heads waste water and the excess water will eventually turn your grass brown and it will die.
- **Check Your Sprinkler Timer After a Storm.** Some timers reset after a storm to the factory default. System defaults may have longer watering times causing an increase in water usage which in turn will cause an increase in your statement.

## **Calibrate Your Sprinklers**

Calibrating will help you to apply the correct amount of water to your yard. Follow these easy steps to determine how much water your sprinkler is applying.

- Set several similar, flat-bottomed, straight-sided cans all equal size (such as empty tuna fish cans) in various places within one sprinkling zone.
- Turn on the zone for 15 minutes.
- Pour the water from all containers into one container. Measure the dept of the water to the nearest 1/8 inch.
- Divide the measurement by the number of containers to determine the average amount of water applied in that zone in 15 minutes.
- Only water the area as long as it takes to apply 1/2 to 3/4 inch of water.

### **Rain Sensor**



You can eliminate unnecessary watering by installing a rain sensor device. The rain sensor (sometimes called a rain shut-off device or rain switch) is a device that prevents the sprinkler from turning on when there has been adequate rainfall. The sensor does not affect or change the timing, nor interrupt the time keeping function of the clock, even if you have an automatic sprinkler system programmed to apply precise amounts of water at specific times each day when watering is permitted. Without a rain sensor, the irrigation system controller will continue to initiate watering cycles, no matter how drenched the landscape is. The switch helps prevent over water usage, helping your lawn and will save you money!

Hernando County Utilities offers a Conservation Incentive Program promoting residential outdoor water conservation. Visit our website on back of this brochure for information on how to qualify for this program.

## **Signs of Over Watering**

The number one plant killer is over watering. It can be more hazardous to your plants than under watering.

- Leaves may wilt and turn yellow, light green, brown, or drop off prematurely.
- Individual branches may die back.
- Leaves may droop, even when water is applied.
- Roots are wet, mushy, and dark brown to black.
- Soil around roots is moist to the touch, yet plants still droop.

### **Signs of Under Watering**

- Leaves turn pale or light green and droop or wilt.
- Leaves may turn brown, starting on the edges or they curl.
- Stems have a wrinkled look and turn yellow or brown. Soil around roots feel dry.

### **Fertilizing and Pesticides**

**Don't over fertilize or apply too much pesticide! When too much fertilizer or pesticide is applied to landscapes, it seeps past the root zone of the grass, plants or trees and into the aquifer or runs off into water bodies. Plants, animals and people depend on clean water for survival.**

#### **Fertilizing:**

- Fertilize lawns, trees and plants only to maintain health. Don't exceed recommended amounts. Fertilizer will not help poor growth caused by too much watering, drought conditions, shade, disease or pests.
- Use iron instead of nitrogen if you want to green-up your lawn.
- Hold off on fertilizing if a heavy rain is expected.

#### **Pesticides:**

- Learn to identify beneficial insects and let them do the work for you, and be tolerant! Low levels of pests will do minimal damage.
- Check plants regularly and prune off a plant's infected areas or pick off insects when possible.
- Use pesticides only to spot-treat affected plants and lawn areas. Avoid blanket applications.