

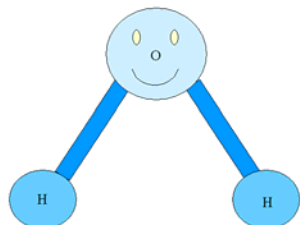


Water Ways

Indian River County Extension Service Water Quality Program

April 2006

Volume 3, Issue 2



Hydro the Water Molecule

SJRWMD IRRIGATION RULE

After two years of consulting with lawn care experts, special interest groups, and the public, St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has instituted a rule relating to lawn and landscape irrigation. The highlights are:

- Lawn and landscape irrigation is limited to no more than two days a week.
• Irrigation is still prohibited between 10am and 4pm.
• Limitations apply to water drawn from a private well, private or public utility, or a surface water body.
• You choose your own irrigation days unless there is a local government ordinance specifying the days.
• Automatic lawn irrigation systems installed after May 1991 shall install, maintain, and operate a rain sensor service that overrides the systems when adequate rainfall has occurred.
• The limitations apply to areas not regulated by a consumptive use permit.
• The limitations do not apply to golf course fairways, greens, tees, and rough, agricultural crops, nursery plants, or high-use recreational areas such as ball fields.
• Other exceptions to the rule can be found on page 3 and at www.sjrwmd.com.

Table with 2 columns: Article Title and Page Number. Includes: Selecting a Pest Control Company (2), More Rule Information (3), Welcome (3), Hydro's Page (4), Upcoming Events (5)



HYDRO'S WATER TIP

Use fertilizers that contain slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen and apply sparingly.



DID YOU KNOW...

- It doesn't take much salt to make water "salty." If one-thousandth (or more) of the weight of water is from salt, then the water is "saline."

This rule can help save thousands of gallons of water weekly because lawn and landscape irrigation can account for over 50% of total water use. Another benefit to reducing irrigation is to promote drought- and stress-tolerant landscapes. The rule may also reduce the amount of non-point source pollution that enters our water bodies daily through stormwater runoff. This reduction may mean a healthier Indian River Lagoon.

If you have any questions about the rule, contact SJRWMD or go to www.sjrwmd.com

SELECTING A PEST CONTROL COMPANY

Household and landscape pests like Florida's warm weather just as much as residents, which means we have a robust pest population that are always looking for food, a home, or both. In order to keep pests from doing too much damage, residents may contact professional pest control services to control household and landscape pests. However, not all services are created equal. Before you choose a company, look into the effectiveness of pest control programs and customer service.

First, talk to your neighbors about their pest control service and why they selected a company. Also inquire if they have had any negative experiences with other companies. The Better Business Bureau is another resource to consult to determine if there are any outstanding claims against a company.

Speaking to other people isn't the only thing to do because one company does not work for everyone. There are many other items to consider such as if anyone in your family is sensitive to chemicals. If so, does a company offer pesticide alternatives that will give you the level of control you want but be cautious if product claims sound too good to be true.

Determine what type of contract would work best for you. Contracts range from year round regular visits to the homeowner contacting the company when there is a pest infestation.

Once these issues have been addressed, get bids from multiple companies to compare prices, services, and contract types and research these companies. Ask for references and call them. Ask companies if they have a certificate of insurance or surety bond, which Florida law requires. Ask for the company's business license number or contact Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the records. Finally, ask if the company belongs to a professional association, which provide educational opportunities to keep members updated on new technologies and developments in the field.

When you have picked a company, carefully read the contract and understand the service agreement terms before signing. Does the contract run continuously until you notify the company to discontinue service? Is the contract only for a specified length of time? Will the company re-treat if adequate pest control was not attained? Make sure the contract includes the name and address of the pest control company. The following issues should be considered as well: are there clauses that state why a contract can be cancelled, is there an arbitration clause that states how disputes will be settled, and do termite contracts contain retreatment clauses and damage replacement clauses. Finally, read the small print, look for any disclaimers, and ask about anything you don't understand.

Consider company specials and sales pitches carefully. The company may try to provide you services that you don't need, such as treating for pests that aren't present in your home or lawn. Also, be cautious when a company has a pricing structure that is based on quantity of material used. This structure could cost you a lot of money depending on the pest being treated. For example, termite control can require hundreds of gallons of product to provide adequate control.

Selecting a professional pest control business that works for you isn't as simple as picking one from the phonebook, but spending some time talking to neighbors and researching companies can help you find the business that is best for you.

Information for this article was provided by Fishel, F.M., (2005) "Selecting a professional pest control service," University of Florida/ IFAS Fact Sheet PI-38.



OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SJRWMD IRRIGATION RULE

The exceptions to the lawn and landscape irrigation rule are:

- Irrigation using a micro-irrigation (drip) system.
- Irrigation of new landscape is allowed at any time of day on any day for the initial 30 days and every other day for the next 30 days for a total of one 60-day period.
- Watering in of chemicals, including insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides, and herbicides.
- Operation of irrigation systems for maintenance and repair purposes, not to exceed 10 minutes per hour per zone.
- Irrigation using a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off device.
- Discharge of water from a water-to-air-conditioning unit or other water-dependent cooling system.
- Irrigation using water from a reclaimed water system.

- Use of recycled water from wet detention treatment ponds for irrigation is allowed anytime provided the ponds are not augmented from any ground or off-site surface water or public supply sources.

The district enforces the rule in areas that do not have local government irrigation ordinances. The district will respond to complaints. The first lack of compliance results in a warning. After a warning, the penalties are:

Residential property:

- 1st violation- \$50 penalty
- 2nd violation- \$100 penalty

Commercial property:

- 1st violation- \$100 penalty
- 2nd violation- \$200 penalty

If additional irrigation days are needed, a general permit is required. The permit is applied for at SJRWMD. It requires that the need to irrigate three days a week must be demonstrated and a \$50 application fee be submitted.

References: Stream Lines, SJRWMD, Spring 2006, Vol. 16, Issue 1 and www.sjrwmd.com.

WELCOME

The University of Florida Indian River County Extension Service group has grown with the addition of Adam Cletzer. Adam is the new 4-H agent and will be working with the county's youth who are learning citizenship, leadership, and life skills.

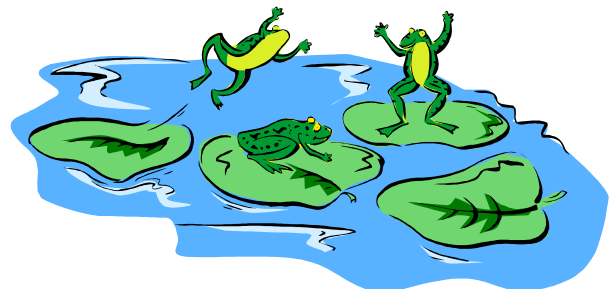
Please welcome Adam to the extension family.

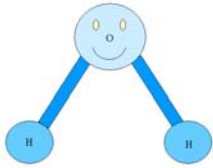


NEW WEB SITE

The Pond Appeal program has expanded to the internet! The Pond Appeal team has put together a site full of resources about pond maintenance. You can also see the presentations from last year's seminars.

The information can be found at <http://pond.ifas.ufl.edu>.





HYDRO'S KIDS PAGE

HYDRO'S WATER CYCLE JOURNEYS - NITRO TO THE POND

Speck and I were floating around in a **stormwater pond**. This is a special place that helps clean up dirty water.

It was a very crowded place with a lot of other water molecules, but we met a new friend.

Nitro was a **nitrogen** atom. Nitro told us about how he came from **fertilizer**. Fertilizer is something that is made up of lots of different things that plants need to **grow**.

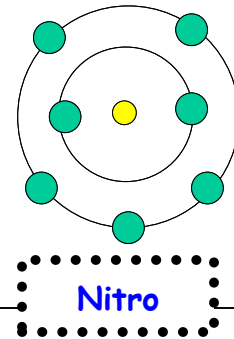
Speck asked Nitro how he got into the pond. Nitro said he started off in a bag. It was very dark in there. Then he fell to the

ground in some grass. There were so many other nitrogen atoms around that the grass didn't need to use Nitro. He sat there until it rained. Nitro got carried away by a lot of water molecules like me. This is called **stormwater runoff**.

Nitro said he has been floating around in the pond ever since.

I thought Nitro told a very exciting story.

My adventure continues in the next issue of *Water Ways*.



PUZZLE TIME

The answers can be found in my story.
-Hydro

Across

5. Water that carries pollutants away.

Down

1. Water body that helps clean up dirty water.

2. Hydro and Speck's new friend.

3. Plants use it to grow.

4. Part of fertilizer.

The crossword puzzle grid consists of a 10x10 grid of squares. The starting points for the clues are:

- 1**: Down, starting at row 1, column 5.
- 2**: Down, starting at row 3, column 4.
- 3**: Down, starting at row 3, column 6.
- 4**: Down, starting at row 3, column 2.
- 5**: Across, starting at row 4, column 1.

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Visit Our Web Site
http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/waterquality/water_quality.htm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date/Time	Event	Location
April 19 8:00am-5pm	Limited Certification Training	IRC Extension Office <i>Pre-registration required*</i>
April 22 12pm-3pm	Biological Control Brain Bowl- Session 1 (teams only)	UF Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory, Ft. Pierce
April 28 8:15am-3:30pm	Integrated Pest Management (government employees only)	Sebastian City Hall <i>Call Janet at (772) 770-5030 for more information.</i>
May 6 12pm-3pm	Biological Control Brain Bowl- Session 2 (teams only)	UF Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory, Ft. Pierce
May 20 12:30pm-5:30pm	Biological Control Brain Bowl and Festival	University of Florida Indian River Research and Education Center <i>Call Janet for more information.</i>

The enclosed material is provided as one of the many services to the educational programs offered by this agency. Our statewide network of faculty is prepared to provide current information on food, agriculture, marine, and natural resource science, energy, nutrition, family and 4-H youth, community development, and related fields. We will be happy to help you with additional information upon request.

Janet Bargar

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 Water Quality Agent
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***To pre-register for classes and workshops, call (772) 770-5030.**

St. Lucie County Extension is also offering pesticide applicator training classes. Call (772) 462-1660 for more information.

If you have any questions about the upcoming events or anything in this newsletter, please contact Janet Bargar at the University of Florida/IFAS Indian River County Extension Service.

There will not be a July newsletter because Janet will be on maternity leave.