



August 2020

It's Irrigation Season!

With the Georgia summer upon us, many of us will be using irrigation systems to water our lawns. Did you know that U.S. residential outdoor water use accounts for nearly 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation? Experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of this water is wasted due to evaporation, wind, runoff, and overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems. Here are some tips to make watering more efficient:

- 1) Check your system for any broken or damaged piping or sprinkler heads that can cause leaks and lead to expensive water bills. Equip your irrigation system with WaterSense labeled sprinkler head bodies to ensure your system is running smoothly and efficiently. Many residential systems operate at a much higher pressure than needed, resulting in wasted water that can contribute to runoff.
- 2) Turn your irrigation system from the “automatic” setting to “manual.” You can also install a soil moisture sensor that detects when your lawn has reached its saturation point and automatically turns off your irrigation system. Both of these steps will help you better understand your yard’s irrigation needs based on weather and allows you to water only when needed.
- 3) Follow Georgia’s year-round watering restrictions required under the Water Stewardship act of 2010, which limits outdoor watering to before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. Regardless of the season, it is important to keep your irrigation system running at optimum and efficient levels to best help preserve our local water supply.

Please visit the <https://northgeorgiawater.org/current-water-stats/drought-status/> for up-to-date drought status for metro Atlanta.