



MANAGING DROUGHT

SOUTH TEXAS DROUGHTS

In South Texas, there is never a doubt there will be a drought. We just don't know when it will happen and how long it will persist. One thing is certain, we all need to be prepared to manage droughts effectively to preserve local aquifers like the Trinity Aquifer. That responsibility belongs to everyone who uses water.

WHAT IS DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

The Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGR), like all groundwater districts in Texas, have drought management plans that incorporate varying degrees of water use restrictions as aquifer levels in the Trinity Aquifer decline. If you are a well owner in the TGR district, you should follow the TGR guidelines. Here are the four stages in TGR's drought plan.

- Year Round Conservation
- Stage 1 - Moderate Drought
- Stage 2 - Extreme Drought
- Stage 3- Severe Drought

Year Round Conservation - Conserving water by not wasting it should be an every-day habit. Water resources serving hundreds of thousands of people are not easily developed. So it just makes sense to never waste the ones we have. That's why the TGR District is constantly in Year-Round Conservation mode.

That primarily consists of encouraging water users to use conservation practices such as: watering a landscape only when your yard needs it, using a hand-held hose instead of a sprinkler system, converting high water use landscapes to ones using native plants, and always being on guard for water leaks in your plumbing system.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

When droughts linger, that's when water management agencies must step up requirements for home and business owners to cut back on water use.

The best way to accomplish that is to begin limiting the amount of water people use on their landscapes. Approximately 60% of an entire household's water can be poured onto turfgrass during summer months. And that just isn't prudent water use.

So, in Stages 1 and 2 of the TGR's drought management plan, watering with a sprinkler system is limited to one day a week. Your day is determined by the last digit of your address.

Watering Days

In Stages 1 and 2, watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler should be limited to only once a week between 12 a.m. and 10 a.m., or 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. on the designated watering day as determined by address:

0 or 1 the irrigation day is Monday,
2 or 3 the irrigation day is Tuesday,
4 or 5 the irrigation day is Wednesday
6 or 7 the irrigation day is Thursday
8 or 9 the irrigation day is Friday.

In Stage 3, watering landscapes with a sprinkler system is limited to **one time every two weeks**.

Waste is prohibited at all times. Allowing groundwater to run off into a gutter, ditch, or drain or failing to repair a controllable leak is considered waste.

You can **save water** by installing rain sensors on automatic sprinkler systems, converting your landscape from high water use turfgrass to a yard featuring native plants, hand watering whenever possible, sweeping sidewalks and driveways rather than hosing them down, and always be on the lookout for water leaks at your house or business.



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