



SMART MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

## Irrigating Efficiently

For many households, 50% to 60% of their water usage is from outdoor uses. Therefore, efficient outdoor water use is just as important as efficient indoor water use. How do you make sure your lawn and landscape is getting the water it needs without over watering and wasting water? Turn your irrigation system off, and only water when your lawn needs it. Watch your lawn for signs of stress, which show it needs water.

### **Signs of stress will include:**

Lingering footprints or mower tracks

Grass and leaf blades that are beginning to close lengthwise

The top few inches of soil will feel dry

It is important to remember not to water just because it is your scheduled day. Most Florida lawns only need approximately one-half of an inch of water per application to replenish the grass. The amount of irrigation also depends on the time of the year and current rainfall amounts.

The Villages Water Wisdom program aims to help you become a *Water Wise* resident and a better steward of our precious water resources.