



Volusia County Water Resources and Utilities uses CodeRed for notifying customers of emergencies such as boil water notices. Although this is not the only method, we are working hard to make it more successful. CodeRed takes geographic boundaries and by computer calls are made to everyone inside this boundary. The database that CodeRed uses is incomplete for a number of very good reasons such as cell phones, outdated and unlisted phone numbers. To ensure that we have the proper notification information, you can go to <http://volusia.org/emergency/> or <http://volusia.org/publicworks/water.htm> and click on CodeRed. Filling out the proper information or updating existing information is important for utility purposes and any emergency where this system will be used for notification. Please take a moment to provide your notification information which will allow us to serve you better.

What is waterwise landscaping?

Waterwise landscaping is the right way to landscape because it conserves water and protects the environment.

The main objective is to establish and maintain a healthy landscape by matching the right plants with the existing site conditions so the use of additional resources such as water, fertilizer, pesticides and labor is minimized. In addition to helping conserve our water resources, good landscaping practices reduce the amount of pollutants reaching water bodies because fewer yard chemicals are used. Fertilizers and pesticides can contaminate water bodies when they are washed out of the yard with stormwater runoff.

The best time to start a drought-tolerant landscape for your home is long before the drought happens. Healthy plants with deep established root systems need less help to survive a drought.

Despite Florida's humid climate, water shortages do occur here. Demand can be greater than the supply. Therefore, it's important to practice water conservation daily.

In many Florida households, as much as 85 percent of household water is used outdoors, mostly for lawn and garden irrigation.

Almost 90 percent of all public water supply in Florida comes from the Floridan aquifer.

(continued on next page)

Waterwise plant of the month

Sea grape,

Coccoloba uvifera



Sea-grape (or Seagrape) is a Florida native. This tree is related to the coral vine and pigeon-plum. It can be a large shrub or a small tree, depending on nature or your training. Sea-grape has large, thick, round evergreen leaves. Young leaves are red and then turn to a nice shiny green.

The 'grapes' are the seeds and grow in clusters, especially where exposed to the sun. Birds love to eat the grapes, and a fine jelly can be made when ripe in early summer.

Sea-grape is salt tolerant and can thrive very close to the ocean if not overly exposed to strong winds. It wants full sun and its favorite soil is plain beach sand. However, better soil is tolerated as long as it is well drained.

When planting from a container, add some rich soil and water faithfully until established. Thereafter, no care is necessary except pruning for desired appearance.



Irrigation contractor visit still being offered

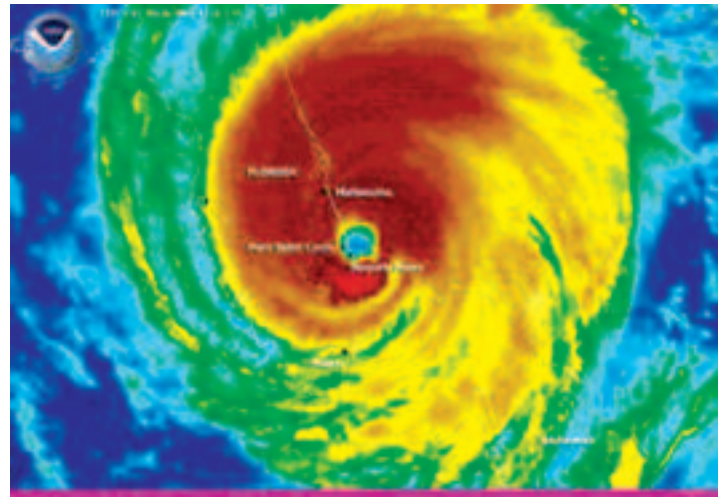
If you use City or County water or metered reclaimed water for irrigation, take advantage of a visit by a trained irrigation auditor to help you reduce your water bill. Pay only \$25 for this one-hour visit, in which the auditor will do minor adjustments, assess your system, and work with you on timer settings. The Water Authority of Volusia pays the remaining cost through a grant from Volusia County Environmental Management. To be put on the list and for auditor referral, phone (386) 295-6362. First come first-served!

(continued from front page)

Each day we pump billions of gallons from this aquifer, but the rate which it refills or recharges from rain is far less.

Taking too much water out of the aquifer threatens our potable water supply and also increases the occurrence of sinkhole formations.

We strongly encourage you to take a proactive approach to water conservation. Turn a new leaf, and do your part to conserve. Follow the watering restrictions mandated by Volusia County ordinance and see the difference.



Are you ready?

June 1 marks the beginning of hurricane season in Florida. Although no amount of preparation can prevent a disaster, planning can limit its effects.

One important supply to have on hand in the event of a disaster is safe drinking water. Remember to store one gallon of water per person per day. You should plan for at least three days. People with special needs such as nursing mothers, young children and family members with illnesses can require more water. You can fill clean bathtubs, sinks and containers with water to supplement the water you have stored.

As long as disinfected tap water is stored in a clean airtight container and in a cool location, the water should remain safe indefinitely. As a general rule, change your emergency water supply at least every six months to ensure freshness.

For more disaster preparation information, please go online to www.volusia.org/storm.

Have you signed up?

Are you going on vacation or going out of town on a business trip? You can avoid late fees which are \$5 or 10 percent of your balance due. Contact the billing office at (386) 736-5971 to get your checking account withdraw (ACH) application. This will allow your utility bill to be deducted automatically from your bank account.

You also can make your monthly water/sewer payment online at www.volusia.org/payments.htm or by calling the toll-free number, (877) 729-9287.



Do not throw:

- diapers
- shop rags
- Latex gloves
- synthetic fiber based towels such as dryer sheets
- plastic bags
- candy wrappers
- grease

down your toilet or drains. This causes blockages in the sewer system, costing time and money to correct.