



Overview- Volusia County Water Wise Landscaping Ordinance

- The ordinance is a countywide environmental standard developed under the county's charter and is enforced in both unincorporated and incorporated areas of the county by a contract with the health department.
- The ordinance is different than most other landscaping ordinances in that it does not regulate the type of plants that can be planted, rather it regulates the design and installation of the irrigation system.
- The ordinance provides a great deal of flexibility in how it will be applied to any given lot. The most typical design has three zones; up to 50% in high water use zone, this is a typical St. Augustine lawn with rotors and up to 1" of water per week; 25% moderate application zone with up to .5" per week and the remaining 25% in a low volume drip irrigation zone.
- Another alternative is 75% high water use zone with the remaining 25% as a native plant retention area with no irrigation. Other combinations of these two examples may also be used.
- The ordinance also requires good irrigation design including pressure reducing heads and irrigation zones that must be divided according to available flow rate, vegetated groupings, sprinkler types, and soil characteristics.
- A hallmark of the ordinance is the requirement for self certification. We made the irrigation industry partners in the development and implementation of the ordinance. Only spot checks are done to insure compliance.
- The ordinance is designed to save approximately 25% of the water needed for new development however the ordinance is still too new to determine how effective it is.
- The ordinance enjoys the support of the sod industry, the development community and irrigation professionals.
- The ordinance is undergoing internal review and most comments have been minor except for one change proposed by the Health Department. The Health Department is proposing Council delete the per-week flow rate requirement and only use the head flow rate requirement. Their suggestion for the high water use zone, up to five gallons per minute per outlet; moderate application zone at a rate of one-half to five gallons per minute per outlet and a low volume zone using microirrigation.