# Outdoor Water Conservation

- 1. Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- **2.** Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- **3.** Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption every time you water.
- 4. Only water your lawn when needed. You can tell this by simply walking across your lawn. If you leave footprints, it's time to water.
- **5.** Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- **6.** Water your summer lawns once every three days and your winter lawn once every five days.
- **7.** Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light, and water.
- **8.** Using compost when you plant adds water-holding organic matter to the soil. Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- **9.** Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.
- **10.** For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.

from wateruseitwisely.com

Updated Watering Restrictions Visit: NewnanUtilities.org Newnan Utilities 70 Sewell Road Newnan, Georgia 30263



Irrigation systems are a convenient way to water outdoor areas to maintain a healthy, vibrant landscape. With the operation of an irrigation system comes a responsibility to the public drinking water system. The following regulations and guidelines are designed to benefit your drinking water system and enhance your water usage.

#### Backflow Prevention Device

**MANDATORY:** A backflow prevention device (BFP) is required to protect water supplies from contamination. A BFP is a series of check valves that prevent water from flowing

in a reverse direction. Irrigation heads are installed flush with the ground and water often pools around heads that is contaminated by soil, fertilizer or animal waste that could potentially contaminate the public drinking water system.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division's Rules for Safe Drinking Water, established in 1977 and amended in 1983, requires installation of backflow prevention devices on all irrigation systems.

# Backflow Prevention Device STRAINER (RECOMMENDED) DCV ASSEMBLY DCV ASSEMBLY MIN. 4' GRAVEL NEVNAN UTILITIES' METER BDX NEVNAN

# Backflow Prevention Device

# **INSTALLATION:** All backflow prevention devi

backflow prevention devices require inspection after installation as well as annual testing.

Once Installed: Call

770-683-0994 to schedule an inspection of the BFP and rain sensor.

**Once Inspection is Passed:** Newnan Utilities requires that the BFP be tested by a certified tester within 24 hours. A list of certified testers may be found online at NewnanUtilities.org. The testing report should be submitted to our office on the test form provided by Newnan Utilities online at NewnanUtilities.org.

**Annual Testing:** Annual testing is required for all backflow prevention devices. Letters are mailed from Newnan Utilities as a convenient reminder that testing is due. A list of certified testers may be found online at NewnanUtilities.org.

**Note:** Customers who do not order an irrigation meter and tie the irrigation system to the domestic supply line should install the BFP on the irrigation line at the point of origination before any branch connections.

## **Contact Us**

Newnan Utilities Wahoo Creek Office 770-683-5516 NewnanUtilities.org

#### Rain Sensor Shut-Off

MANDATORY: A rain sensor shut-off switch is an electric device that detects and measures rainfall and turns off the irrigation system when a predetermined amount of rain

has fallen. This prevents the irrigation system from watering when the landscape is already receiving enough water from the rainfall, reducing unnecessary watering during rainfall events.

A Rain Sensor Shut-Off should be included with the installation of your irrigation system.

Rain Sensors are required on all irrigation systems, as detailed in Georgia Code Section 12-5-6, passed in 2004. The code affects systems installed after January 1, 2005.

### Irrigation Meter

# OPTIONAL, BUT RECOMMENDED:

Irrigation meters are used to meter the exact amount of water that is used in outdoor watering.

If an irrigation system is tied to the domestic meter that provides water for the residence or business, that water consumption is subject to sewer consumption charges. Newnan Utilities cannot provide sewer credits for water used for outdoor watering because it is impossible to determine the amount of water that was used for specific purposes.

Meter Pricing Dependent Upon
Line Size & Location
Call 770-683-5516 for a Ouote

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