



NEWS RELEASE

North Texas
Municipal Water
District

For Immediate Release
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NTMWD Initiates Stage 3 “Seasonal” Water Restrictions November 1

Customers allowed to water lawns once every two weeks, only if needed, November through March

(Wylie, Texas-October 23, 2014) Officials with the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) have initiated Stage 3 seasonal watering of the NTMWD Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan, March 2008, (Plan), which goes into effect November 1.

The NTMWD board action requests that Member Cities and Customers (including indirect customers) implement the following water conservation strategies:

- Initiate Stage 3 of the Member Cities and Customers drought contingency and water emergency response plans no later than November 1.
- Limit landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to once every two weeks between November 1 and March 31 and restrict watering from 10 AM to 6 PM.
- Accelerate public education efforts on ways to reduce water usage by 10%.

Despite recent rains, NTMWD’s primary raw water supplies remain below normal conservation levels. Lavon Lake is 12.51 feet below normal and Lake Jim Chapman is also 11.55 feet below the normal conservation level.

“Our cities and customers did a tremendous job reducing landscape watering during the hot summer months. Now, as we move into cooler fall and winter months, lawns and other landscaping require less water,” said Tom Kula, Executive Director of NTMWD. “NTMWD recommends customers: **turn off irrigation systems** and **operate on manual mode**; utilize weather based watering recommendations such as WaterMyYard.org, Frisco’s WaterWise program, or the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife) ET Network; and water lawns only if needed to supplement natural rainfall,” Kula added.

Experts at AgriLife in Dallas cite that during the fall and into the winter months, lawns in North Texas require very little to no supplemental watering.

“Usually in September of each year, lawns begin to go dormant,” said Dotty Woodson, extension program specialist at AgriLife. “During the fall and into the winter, lawns receive enough water naturally and do not require the use of automatic sprinkler systems,” Woodson added.

Stage 3 seasonal water restrictions will begin November 1st and extend through March 31, 2015. Please check with your city for specific guidelines and restrictions.

More information and tips on water conservation can be found at www.wateriq.org and www.ntmwd.com.

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