



# MANAGING DROUGHT

In South Texas, there is never a doubt there will be a drought. We just don't know when it will happen and how long it will persist. One thing is certain, we all need to be prepared to manage droughts effectively to preserve local aquifers like the Trinity Aquifer. That responsibility belongs to everyone who uses water.

## **What is Drought Management and Why is it Important**

The Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGR) is charged with conserving, preserving and protecting the Trinity Aquifer in Northern Bexar County and portions of surrounding counties. The TGR board last amended its drought stages watering restrictions plan in 2013. There are four stages with varying degrees of water restrictions as water levels in the Trinity Aquifer declines.

Year Round Conservation  
Stage 1 - Moderate Drought  
Stage 2 - Severe Drought  
Stage 3- Extreme Drought

## **Year-Round Conservation**

Conserving water by not wasting it should be an every-day habit. Water resources serving hundreds of thousands of people are not easily developed. So it just makes sense to never waste the ones we have. That's why the TGR District is constantly in Year-Round Conservation mode.

That primarily consists of encouraging water users to use conservation practices such as: watering a landscape only when your yard needs it, using a hand-held hose instead of a sprinkler system, converting high water use landscapes to ones using native plants, and always being on guard for water leaks in your plumbing system.

When droughts linger, that's when water management agencies must step up requirements for home and business owners to cut back on water use.

The best way to accomplish that is to begin limiting the amount of water people use on their landscapes. Approximately 60% of an entire household's water can be poured onto turfgrass during summer months. And that just isn't prudent water use.

So, in Stages 1 and 2 of the TGR's drought management plan, watering with a sprinkler system is limited to one day a week. Your day is determined by the last digit of your address.

## Watering Days

**In Stages 1 and 2**, watering with an irrigation system or sprinkler should be limited to only once a week between 12 a.m. and 10 a.m., or 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. on the designated watering day as determined by address:

0 or 1 the irrigation day is Monday,  
2 or 3 the irrigation day is Tuesday,  
4 or 5 the irrigation day is Wednesday  
6 or 7 the irrigation day is Thursday  
8 or 9 the irrigation day is Friday.

### **In Stage 3 Extreme Drought, water restrictions include:**

- Water use reduction goal of 15%.
- Watering with a hand-held hose may occur any time and any day.
- Watering with a spray irrigation system, sprinkler, or soaker hose is allowed once every other week, from 5-10 a.m. and 9 p.m.-12 a.m. on your designated watering day as determined by your address in Stage 1.
- Watering with drip irrigation may run one day a week, on Friday, from 5-10 a.m. or 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.
- Residential car washing should occur only once a week, during drought on Saturday or Sunday as long as there is no water waste.
- Installing newly planted landscapes is highly discouraged.
- Alternate sources of water usage are highly encouraged such as rainwater harvesting, reclaimed condensate, reclaimed grey water, recycled water that has no adverse effects to public health and safety, and other non-groundwater sources.



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