

Just Add H₂O

MARCH 2024

Spring (and pollen) are in the air and those freezing temperatures of last month have been replaced by warmer temperatures. Even though we are forecasted for unseasonably warm weather this week, that does **not** mean that you need to water your warm season turfgrass.

For those of us who have experienced a summer in North Texas, we know that summer weather can challenge even the most established lawns. Making sure that our lawn *and* water supply are ready to handle the demands of summer starts now!



The Water Whys of March



With the possibility of record-high temperatures being forecast this week, we thought this was a good time to review ordinances related to water use in the City of Frisco. In this issue we answer the following questions:

- (1) When can I water my lawn?
- (2) How much of my water bill is from using my irrigation system?
- (3) How can I report water waste anonymously?

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EAST FORK WETLAND PHOTO RETRIEVED FROM NTMWD WEBSITE (2024)

MOISTURE MARATHON TRAINING

It's been said that everything's bigger in Texas, but this should not apply to your water bill. In fact, adding too much water to warm-season turf grasses, like Bermuda or Zoysia, can keep your turfgrass roots shallow and make your lawn vulnerable to the unforgiving conditions of summer. Reducing water on your lawn may seem counterproductive, but this process is very similar to how we might feel sore after increasing our physical activity. Eventually, you will not feel as sore as you once did because you have gotten stronger.

Last month's newsletter discussed how the slow absorption rate of our clay-rich soil can result in runoff or flooding after heavy rains or too much irrigation. If our irrigation zones are run for too long, there is a good chance that water is lost to runoff or evaporation - neither of which will benefit your lawn, landscaping, pocketbook, or our water supply.

To get you started on how to get your lawn ready for the summer, we've included some tips from local turfgrass experts on how to establish a drought-tolerant lawn that you'll be proud of.

Don't wait until it's too late - start your moisture marathon training now. We'll see you at the finish line!



Moisture Meters

This simple tool can tell you very quickly about the moisture level in your soil & if any adjustments need to be made. Keeping the amount of moisture in your soil consistent will not only benefit your turfgrass, it will also benefit the foundation of your home during those hot, dry spells.



Free Sprinkler Check-Ups

The City of Frisco offers our residents free sprinkler check-ups! One of our licensed irrigators will spend time at your home, evaluate the settings on your irrigation system, and look for signs of possible leaks.

2024 is an even year, so if your address ends in an even number, visit the myFRISCO app and schedule your free check-up today!



Ask the Experts!

Texas AgriLife Extension offers many free, easy-to-understand resources on their website that were developed by turfgrass researchers. Explore their resources, such as their yearly turfgrass schedule, to help you make decisions related to the care of your lawn and landscape.



Hand Water Like a Boss

Did you know that hand watering turfgrass is a best practice for maintaining the greens of professional golf courses? Hand watering has been shown to use less water than irrigation systems. In other words, go outside, put a shut-off nozzle on your garden hose, and hand water your lawn & landscape.

Bonus: Our Water Management Plan allows you to hand water up to 2hr per day!



Evidence of Water Leaks

Your water bill may be one way you can quickly identify potential leaks. Become familiar with how much water your irrigation system is set to use and monitor your water use. Should you suspect a leak in your irrigation system or have concerns about the current settings, contact us for a free sprinkler inspection or reach out to a licensed irrigator. We also have videos on our water resources page that can help you navigate basic questions or concerns.



Boosting Moisture Without Extra Water

Aerating your warm season turfgrass and adding compost are known to help with maintaining soil moisture levels and improve the overall health of your lawn. Read more about the benefits of compost and aeration for your lawn and soil quality in the resources found on Texas AgriLife's webpage.

ANNUAL TEMPORARY CHANGE IN DRINKING WATER DISINFECTANT

From March 4th to April 1st the North Texas Municipal Water District will begin their annual change in drinking water disinfectant. This process is commonly performed, especially in warmer climates, to reduce the potential for bacterial growth in our drinking water.

For more information: www.ntmwd.com/safewater

WORKSHOP: IRRIGATION STATION

Frisco Public Library from 10am to Noon
Monday, March 11th -and- Friday, March 22nd

Visit: www.eventbrite.com to reserve your spot!

Each person who attends will be entered into a raffle for a WaterWise Surprise!

USING YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM THE BASICS

- Trash pick-up day = designated watering day
- Water only as needed – no more than 1x per week & don't over water.
- Cycle & soak method recommended! Give smaller amounts & allow time to absorb.
- No watering between 10AM and 6PM
- Adjust the amount of water based on weather station data – check Frisco's weekly watering recommendation
- Check irrigation system & make necessary repairs
- Monitor utility bill for possible leaks or over-watering

REMEMBER:

- Review city ordinances related to irrigation and water usage
- Violations & fines issued for non-compliance of city ordinances for irrigation & water waste
- Use the myFRISCO app to anonymously report any kind of water waste - residential or non-residential.

JUMP INTO THE DATA

One of my favorite phrases is: the data doesn't lie. Many of us rely on data to make personal and professional decisions, especially when those decisions have the potential to impact our lives and property investments. The data on this page is Frisco-focused with respect to our city's water supply and availability.

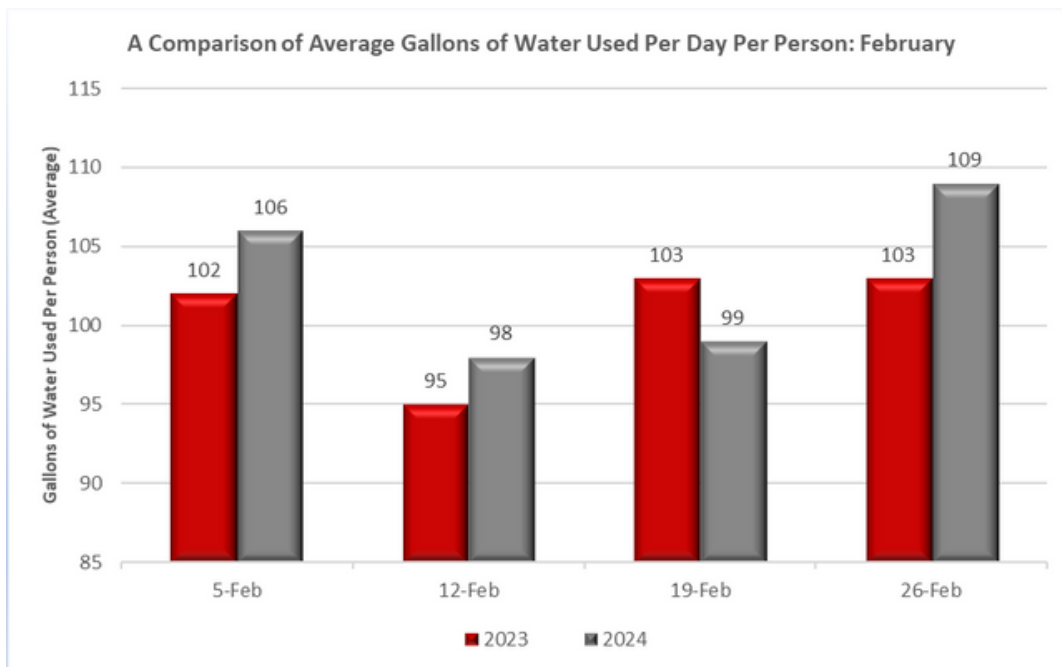
GPCD (GALLONS PER CAPITA PER DAY)

AKA: AVERAGE GALLONS OF WATER EACH PERSON USES PER DAY

In a city of our size and growing, the amount of water each person in Frisco uses each day can be very different. However, the amount of water we need to purchase from North Texas Municipal Water District is determined by how much we use as a whole. To help keep the cost of water at its current rate and to use our supply wisely, we recommend that our residents examine their personal water use and determine if some minor changes in water use would be appropriate. Water waste can be reported anonymously on the myFRISCO app.

We compared the City of Frisco GPCD data for the corresponding weeks of February 2023 (red) and February 2024 (gray).

February 2024: An **additional** 7 gallons of water per person or a combined total of 1,617,805 gallons of water.



KEEP THE BUCKET FULL



**MARCH GOAL:
GPCD OF 110 OR LESS**

FOR SINGLE RESIDENCE HOMES, IRRIGATION SYSTEMS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OVER 60% OF YOUR MONTHLY WATER BILL