

Stage I Supplement to Ordinance 08-12

SUMMARY OF DEVINE'S STAGE I WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

We are currently under Stage I of the City of Devine's drought management ordinance effective **October 1, 2021**. To follow are some of the particular restrictions:

Irrigation days for residential and commercial properties will be according to the street address and according to the following schedule. If the last digit of the street address ends in:

- 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

If there is no street address associated with the property, such as a parkway, or if there is more than one (1) street address associated with a single continuous property the irrigation day is Wednesday.

1) Landscape watering for new landscaping plants:

Under Stage I, landscape watering between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. is prohibited. Landscaping watering between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. is permitted until the plants are established; however, no longer than five (5) weeks. **Property owners need to contact the City and inform the City of the address where the new landscape is to be installed.** Thereafter, landscape watering using sprinkler or irrigation systems for landscaping plants is permitted only on the day and times associated with the current stage in effect at the termination of the variance allowed by this subsection of this ordinance.

2) Landscape watering for existing landscaping plants:

Under Stage I, landscape watering is prohibited except between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Flood irrigation is prohibited. Landscape watering with a hand-held hose, bucket or drip system is permitted at anytime.

3) Swimming pools, hot tubs, and similar facilities:

Under Stage I, all other than public swimming pools must be covered with an effective evaporation cover or screen or evaporation shields covering at least twenty-five (25) percent of the surface of the pool when the pool is not in active use. Active use includes necessary maintenance that requires removal of the cover screen, or shields. Active use of public, commercial and apartment pools is whenever the pool is not officially closed.

4) Vegetable Gardens:

Under Stage I, irrigation between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. is prohibited. Irrigation between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. is permitted. Irrigation with hand-held hose, bucket or drip system is permitted at anytime.

5) Golf Courses:

Under Stage I, golf courses shall be required to submit a water conservation plan and shall have on file with the City of Devine the annual irrigation check up as described in Section 2 and shall be defined as "conforming" or "non-conforming" and shall reduce water usage under the following terms:

- A. All landscape out-of-play areas such as may be found around a club house or entryway shall follow general landscape irrigation restrictions for that location.
- B. All in-play areas may be irrigated with a sprinkler or irrigation system between the hours of 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight.
- C. Conforming golf courses shall implement a ten (10) percent reduction in the replacement of daily evapotranspiration rate ("ET rate") or daily soil-holding capacity, achieved by use of an existing and properly operating computer controlled irrigation system capable of achieving such water conservation goals.
- D. A non-conforming golf course shall not use more than 1.8 times the base usage. If not separately metered an irrigation audit showing precipitation rates and run times along with a conservation plan

shall be submitted and approved by the City of Devine for the purpose of establishing acceptable irrigation run times and days as approved by the City of Devine.

- E. The one hundred (100) percent use of gray water, treated wastewater or reuse water, condensate water, cooling tower blow down is a defense to prosecution and may be used to irrigate any day without waste. Alternate on-site reclaimed sources may be approved through variance from the City of Devine on a case by case basis.
 - F. If one hundred (100) percent use of gray water, treated wastewater or reuse water, condensate water, cooling tower blow down will be used during additional days or hours allowed for that location, signs identifying this property as using recycled or reclaimed water source must be posted on site at a location where the general public can view it.
- 6) Aesthetic Use:
Under Stage I, reduction is recommended for inside and outside use.
- 7) Athletic Fields:
- A. An athletic field shall either irrigate according to a basic plan or an advanced plan. Plans shall be on file and approved by the City of Devine in advance of use. The advanced plan showing precipitation rates and run times along with a conservation plan shall be submitted and approved by the City of Devine for the purpose of establishing acceptable irrigation run times and days as approved by the City of Devine. A basic plan outlines which day of the week (Monday-Friday) which athletic would be irrigated.
 - B. All landscape out-of-play areas such as may be found around a club house or entryway shall follow general landscape irrigation restrictions for that location.
- 8) Other Outside Uses:
Under Stage I, waste is prohibited. Reduction of washing of impervious surface areas is recommended. Washing of mobile equipment is prohibited except on designated days with a hand-held hose or bucket. Water use by commercial vehicle washing facilities is prohibited.

As a general rule, waste is prohibited. Reduction of **all** water use is recommended. Private wells are excluded from the ordinance but reduction of use is recommended – they tend to go dry quickly during a drought.

Each violation of the ordinance shall be punished by a penalty of a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00 for the first offense, a fine not less than \$250 and not more than \$500 for the second offense and not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$2000 for the third and additional offense. Each day a violation occurs shall be deemed a separate offense.

This is only a summary of some of the parts of the ordinance applicable under Stage I. Stage II may be declared within the next several weeks and the restrictions will be much harsher. (Our Stage II is almost as restrictive as San Antonio's Stage IV). Copies of the ordinance are available at the city hall. If you have any questions or wish to report water wasters, call the City at 663-2804.