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Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 4:54 PM
To: Heitzmann, Doris S
Subject: Skip a Week

Importance: High
Hello Everyone,

It is the time of the year again – you might have guessed it, I am not only referring to the Holidays. I am writing to remind you to skip a week of irrigation during the cooler months of December, January and February.

According to the University of Florida, grass doesn't need to be watered as often during the cooler months. In fact, this time of the year, St. Augustinegrass only needs one-half to three quarters of an inch of irrigation-water every 10-14 days.

Overwatering does not only waste water it also can encourage pests and diseases in the landscape. Skipping a week of watering is as easy as 'off' for community associations and residents with irrigation timers. Turn the timer to 'off' for the week that you want to skip, and 'on' for the week that you want to water,"

You can determine when your grass needs water when

- Grass blades are folded in half lengthwise.
- Grass appears blue-gray in color.
- Footprints remain on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

Watering only every other week or less during the winter will not only improve landscape health, it will also help to conserve drinking water and protect our resources. Therefore start "skipping" today and spread the word among your friends, neighbors and clients.

For additional information please refer to the University of Florida/IFAS fact sheets Let your lawn tell you when to water <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep054> and Watering Your Florida Lawn <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh025> or contact me at dheitzmann@pinellascounty.org or 727 582-2422.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a successful and Happy New Year.

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