

WATER RESTRICTIONS

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board adopted a new drought management rule in 2015 which updated outdoor watering restrictions. Per the rule (which can be found [here](#)):

(a) Persons may irrigate outdoors daily for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.

(b) Paragraph (a) shall not create any limitation upon the following outdoor water uses:

1. Commercial agricultural operations as defined in Code Section [1-3-3](#);
2. Capture and reuse of cooling system condensate or storm water in compliance with applicable local ordinances and state guidelines;
3. Reuse of gray water in compliance with Code Section 31-3-5.2 and applicable local board of health regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
4. Use of reclaimed waste water by a designated user from a system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division of the department to provide reclaimed waste water;
5. Irrigation of personal food gardens;
6. Irrigation of new and replanted plant, seed, or turf in landscapes, golf courses, or sports turf fields during installation and for a period of 30 days immediately following the date of installation;
7. Drip irrigation or irrigation using soaker hoses;
8. Handwatering with a hose with automatic cutoff or handheld container;
9. Use of water withdrawn from private water wells or surface water by an owner or operator of property if such well or surface water is on said property;
10. Irrigation of horticultural crops held for sale, resale, or installation;
11. Irrigation of athletic fields, golf courses, or public turf grass recreational areas;
12. Installation, maintenance, or calibration of irrigation systems; or
13. Hydroseeding.

(c) Paragraph (a) shall not create any limitation upon outdoor water uses for purposes other than planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants.