



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Riverhead Town's Water Conservation Recommendations

In the interest of conserving water and saving taxpayer dollars, Riverhead Supervisor Laura Jens-Smith is asking residents to follow some simple suggestions for watering lawns this summer.

On a typical hot summer day, the Riverhead Water District needs to pump up to 20 million gallons of water, using all 17 of the Town wells. It is estimated that up to 80% percent of the increased demand is for irrigation. That's over 6 times more water needed than on a typical winter day, when only 3 or 4 wells can supply our demand.

In order to avoid the need for constructing additional multimillion dollar well sites to serve those few peak days, the Riverhead Water District has met with large water users like irrigation system contractors and residential HOAs, and is encouraging residents to follow similar suggestions for sprinklers and irrigation systems:

- Participate in the ODD/EVEN program:
 - If your home number is odd water on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
 - If your home number is even water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- Water before 10am or after 4pm
- Reduce the run time by 10% per zone. (For instance, if the current setting is 10 minutes per zone, reduce it to 9 minutes)
- Add a rain sensor so your sprinkler system automatically shuts off when it rains
- Avoid overwatering, which makes plants prone to pests and adds to storm water runoff, which pollutes our water.
- As longer, more infrequent watering saves water and promotes root growth, consider watering only once or twice a week but for a longer period of time.

Supervisor Jens-Smith reminds residents that "A few simple steps can make a huge difference in assuring that we have a good supply of drinking water, sufficient capacity for emergency and to preserve and protect our environment."

For more information about water conservation, see the Riverhead Water District newsletter at <https://www.townofriverheadny.gov/docview.aspx?docid=48538> or call 631-727-3205