

March 2011



just the **FACTs**

This fact sheet is provided as a reference to encourage a greater understanding of the various issues related to managing water in South Florida.

Agricultural and Nursery Water Use Restrictions *For South Miami-Dade County Water Users in the South Dade Water Use Basin*

Agriculture

- Overhead irrigation is prohibited from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Drip, micro-jet and other low-volume irrigation systems that apply water directly to root plant zones may be used anytime. Operate these systems to maximize efficient water use and minimize water loss.
- Overhead irrigation for stressed field-grown nursery stock is allowed daily for 10 minutes per irrigation zone from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- Overhead irrigation for stress reduction on newly planted fields of boniato is allowed daily for up to 15 minutes per irrigation zone from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Irrigation for moisture stress reduction is allowed for up to 10 days after planting.
- Maximize the use of water drawn from the least restricted class when there is access to water from more than one source.
- Agricultural Water Conservation Best Management Practices should be used.
- Water use for livestock, aquaculture and soil flooding for seed planting, rice planting, sugarcane burning prior to harvest and to permit sod harvesting shall be voluntarily reduced. Soil flooding for all other purposes is prohibited.
- Water for freeze protection is restricted to times when official weather forecasting services predict crop-damaging temperatures.

Nursery

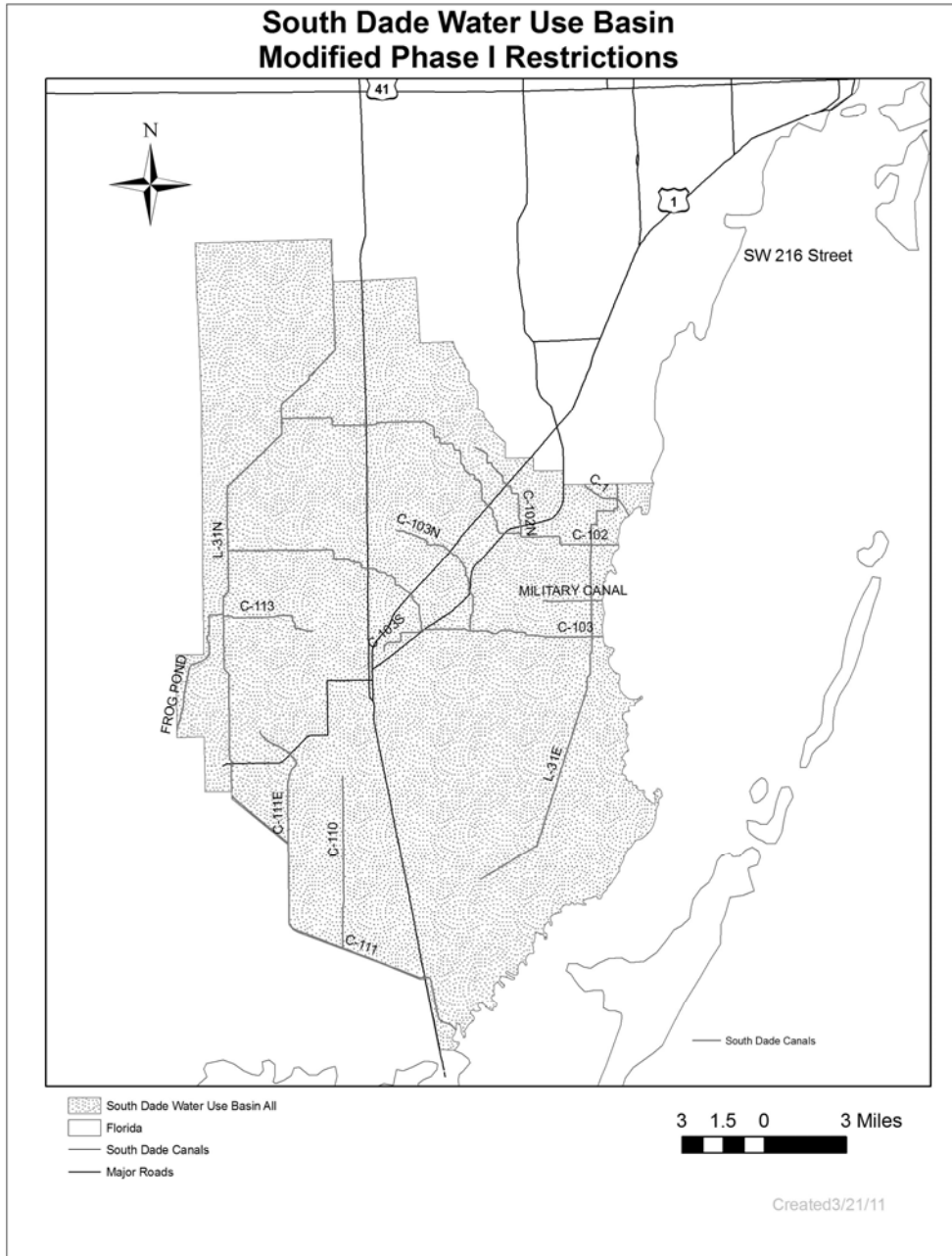
- Low volume irrigation, such as drip and microjet, and low-volume hand-watering shall be voluntarily reduced.
- No irrigation is allowed on days when there is sufficient rainfall. Users shall install a rain switch or other similar device to determine when there has been sufficient rainfall.
- Overhead irrigation inside shade houses or under covered structures is allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Overhead irrigation outside shall:
 - Be voluntarily reduced by users that are employing Agricultural Water Conservation Best Management Practices and have registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
 - Be prohibited from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. by users that are not employing best management practices and have not registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- External propagation bench misting is limited to 10 minutes per bench zone during daylight hours.



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- Stress reduction for containerized nursery stock is permitted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for 10 minutes per irrigation zone.
- Flood irrigation systems are restricted to 8 days per month.



For more information about Agricultural and Nursery Water Use Restrictions For South Miami-Dade County Water Users in the South Dade Water Use Basin, visit the South Florida Water Management District website at www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch.