

# **Saving A Little Saves A Lot** *(from "Splash!" by South Florida Water Management District)*

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For home and business landscapes, many South Florida residents irrigate to keep grass green year-round and tropical plantings looking tropical. As much as 70% of home water use is for outdoor watering or irrigation. Whether sprinkling water comes from a municipal supply, a well, or another source, it's still ultimately drawn from one big South Florida "pool". To share the resource, South Floridians need to conserve water.

There are many ways to water your landscape - from hose "dragging" to automatic sprinkling. There are benefits to using the hose. Water can be directed to specific plants within a bed, sprinkled on seedlings, or applied deeply to planted trees or shrubs. To conserve water, always use a shut-off nozzle at the end of the hose. Using drip and soaker hoses also reduces evaporation and conserves water.

To save time and increase efficiency, many residents install automated sprinkler systems. Systems vary widely in complexity. Simple water computers costing only about \$30 can regulate home sprinklers. More complex systems may be professionally installed. Any automatic sprinkler can save water if set correctly. Saving water also saves money.

To use water most efficiently, set sprinkler timers to water in the early morning when winds are usually light and the ground is cool and receptive.