



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

April 11, 2014

**CONTACT:**

**Randy Smith**

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 389-3386

[www.sfwmd.gov/news](http://www.sfwmd.gov/news)

follow us on 

### **SFWMD Recognizes April as Water Conservation Month** *April is historically a dry month*



*Click on the image to see tips on how to conserve water.*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – Highlighting an ongoing commitment to protecting South Florida’s water resources, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is observing April as Water Conservation Month.

“Water conservation remains one of our most effective strategies to achieve our mission to protect the regional water supply for residents, visitors and the environment,” said SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory. “Each year during the dry season, we remind residents and businesses that a year-round water conservation ethic will help achieve that goal.”

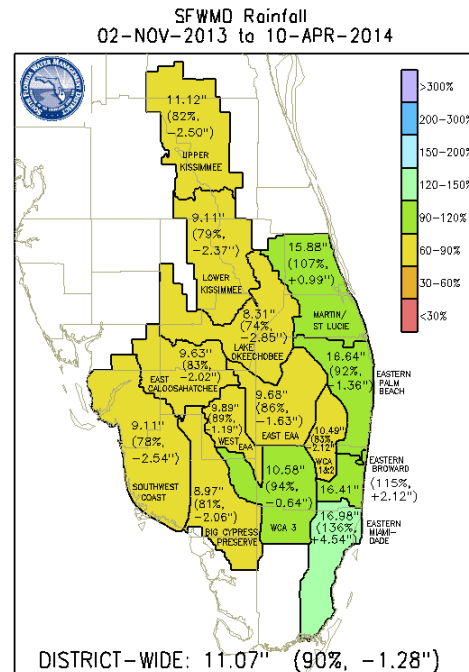
For 16 consecutive years, Florida has recognized Water Conservation Month in April, the height of the South Florida dry season. While the District is not currently in a water shortage or drought, a portion of the region has been in a drought at some point in nine of the last 14 years. A long-term commitment to water conservation helps to minimize the impact of dry times.

## Dry Season Rainfall Update

Evapotranspiration, the loss of water from the ground and growing plants, increases in April, speeding the decline of surface water levels.

Overall, District-wide rainfall across 16 counties was near average from November 1, 2013, through April 10, with 11.07 inches, representing 90 percent of average. Areas from the Upper Kissimmee Basin to the Southwest Coast were drier with below-average rainfall, ranging from 74 percent to 83 percent of average.

Martin, St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties saw near-average rain while Broward and Miami-Dade counties experienced wet conditions with above-average rainfall.



GWDS: COLA/ICES

2014-04-11-10:02

*(Click on the map for a larger version.)*

## Basic water conservation practices include:

- Replacing aerators in kitchen and bathroom sinks with models rated for 1.5 gallons per minute or less
- Watering the lawn based on its actual needs and following the District's year-round landscape irrigation water conservation measures and/or local ordinances
- Installing low-flow appliances, such as a dishwasher or energy-efficient washing machine
- Installing low-flow water fixtures, such as showerheads

## Water Conservation is a Year-Round Ethic

Water conservation is essential year-round for addressing the impacts of weather extremes and growing demands on a limited water supply needed by South Florida's 7.9 million residents, economy and environment.

Water conservation can be practiced indoors and outside. Examples include installing a low-flow aerator on your sink, watering the lawn based on its actual needs or installing low-flow appliances.

When water shortage orders are not in place, the District follows Year-Round Water Conservation Measures that target outdoor irrigation, which accounts for up to half of the water used per person per day in South Florida. The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule is just one of many initiatives implemented under the District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program.

**For more information:**

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)
- [SFWMD Water Conservation](#)
- [Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures](#)

# # #

**About the South Florida Water Management District**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*