

UPDATE: PHASE III WATER RESTRICTIONS THROUGH AUGUST 1 -
How quickly the drought has escalated since the first drought advisory was published on the Quail Forest website in mid-May.

Early the week of May 22, SWFWMD (Swiftmud, the state water management district for Southwest Florida) declared that **Modified Phase III water shortage restrictions are in effect June 5, 2017, through August 1, 2017,** except where stricter measures have been imposed by local governments.

Phase 3 limits:

- Lawn watering and car washing to one day a week and allows fountains and other aesthetic water enhancements to run only 8 hours a day.

Since Pinellas County Utilities follows Swiftmud's guidelines, Pinellas County Utilities has imposed and will enforce these restrictions through August 1. (See earlier article for how financial penalties are levied.) They apply to surface water sources (lakes and channels), well water and potable water provided by PC Utilities.

Swiftmud further declared this week that this year's drought is the worst in more than 100 years.

SINCE EAST LAKE WOODLANDS HAS HAD EVEN STRICTER RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE SINCE MAY 15 (the irrigation system is shut off every other week through July 1), THERE ARE FEW ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS THAT APPLY TO US AT THIS TIME except that once-a-week lawn watering and car washing will continue **through August 1** to allow surface water sources to recover. Should ELW Water extend its current every-other-week irrigation limitation beyond July 1, the stricter regulations must be adhered to by Quail Forest residents.

As was the case for the Phase 1 water shortage restrictions issued in mid-May by Swiftmud and PC Utilities, hand-watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done at any time, as needed.

The following schedule from Swiftmud applies to once-a-week lawn watering or car washing through August 1 throughout Pinellas and 17 other counties in South West Florida.

Addresses with “house numbers” ...	May only irrigate on ...
Ending in 0 or 1	Monday
Ending in 2 or 3	Tuesday
Ending in 4 or 5	Wednesday
Ending in 6 or 7	Thursday
Ending in 8 or 9	Friday
No address (community common areas, etc.)	Friday

According to a spokesperson from Pinellas County, the County is in the process of updating all of its resources (website, automated phone message, Twitter, etc.) to inform customers that the Phase III one-day-per-week restrictions are effective from June 5 – Aug. 1, 2017.

For more information on Swiftmud’s new restrictions, which Pinellas County Utilities will also follow until August 1, check out this link:

<https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/restrictions/swfwmd.php>
