

City of Villa Rica
**Frequently Asked Questions
For Drought Response Level Four**

What is Drought Response Level 4?

A total ban on outdoor water use.

Are there any exemptions to Drought Response Level 4?

Yes.

- ◆ New landscapes installed by certified or licensed professionals may be watered for 30 days. A watering exemption form is available at the City's website (www.villarica.org) under Documents.
 - Landscape and irrigation professionals are exempt from time-of-day restrictions when on the property.
 - Property owners may only water during the hours of Midnight – 10 AM during the 30 days following professional installation.
- ◆ Irrigation of personal food gardens is allowed.
- ◆ Use of reclaimed water is allowed. Examples include rain water or air conditioner condensate.
- ◆ Water from an alternate source such as a personal creek or a well may be used. However, we caution that these water bodies also face difficulty during the drought and are unlikely to recharge. Drawing down these smaller bodies also impacts lakes, streams, and rivers that are fed by these sources.

More details on exemptions can be found at www.conservewatergeorgia.net

What if I just installed new landscaping at home? Can I water?

Watering of newly installed landscape by homeowners is prohibited in Drought Response Level 4. For new landscape installed prior to the state-wide Drought Response Level 4 declaration (September 20, 2007), the homeowner may complete their 30 watering days between the hours of midnight and 10 AM. Proof of landscape purchase prior to the declaration date is required.

Is aeration and over seeding considered new landscape?

Yes, we received clarification from the Department of Natural Resources that this is considered new landscape. If a professional company has aerated and over seeded, the homeowner will have 30 days to water it in.

Chemlawn came out and treated my yard. They said I have to water it in tonight. Can I?

Yes. This is considered a business use of water. The customer should water it in between midnight and 10:00 AM. They should request documentation from their lawn chemical company.

Why did we go to a total ban?

The State of Georgia has declared the need for a Drought Response Level 4 in order to preserve our water supply. The following factors influenced the decision.

- ◆ Ongoing and projected continuing drought conditions.
- ◆ Higher than normal temperatures and lower than normal precipitation – 16 inches behind in rain fall for the year.
- ◆ Lakes and reservoirs throughout the state at all-time low levels.
- ◆ Must ensure an adequate water supply for public health and safety.

I am a professional painter or power washer. Can I power wash homes, etc.?

Yes. We are not restricting business use water. Professionals can power wash as needed.

What if I have a water fountain?

Use of ornamental fountains is prohibited in level 4. Even if the fountain recycles its water, there is a degree of daily evaporation. New water added to the fountain to replace evaporated water violates the total outdoor watering ban.

Can I fill my swimming pool?

Filling of pools is prohibited in Drought Response Level 4. This includes topping off. All pools should be taken out of operation.

What if my pool has been repaired and must be filled or the sides will collapse?

A pool may be filled for the purpose of maintaining structural integrity. Please provide a written repair receipt and the date you will be filling the pool to City Hall.

Can I hold a charity carwash to raise money?

No. Charity carwashes have been banned since late spring when we went to Drought Response Level 2.

How can I get my garden through the drought?

- ◆ All food production, including personal food gardens, are exempt from the water ban. However, please water wisely.
- ◆ For flower gardens and landscaping, here are a few tips:
 - Capture the condensation from your air conditioner unit. Some units provide up to 20 gallons of water a day.
 - Use a rain barrel to capture rain water.
 - Catch the water in your shower as you wait for it to heat up to use on plants.
 - Save a few gallon jugs. Perforate the bottom with small nail holes. Place them throughout your garden. Fill with water you saved indoors or from your AC unit. It will deliver water slowly to the roots.