

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

P.O. Box 625
254 N. Jefferson St., Room 600
La Grange, Texas 78945
Telephone: (979) 968-3135
Fax: (979) 968-3194

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District
Date: July 12, 2005
Contact: Linda Streicher, Manager
Telephone: (979) 968-3135, Fax: (979) 968-3194

Fayette County Experiencing Moderate Drought

Anyone living in Fayette County no doubt realizes that the county is experiencing a drought. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) monitors drought and rainfall conditions, utilizing various means of measuring the severity of the drought, such as the Palmer Drought Severity Index and the Crop Moisture Index.

According to NOAA, Fayette County is experiencing a moderate to severe drought, and would need six to nine inches of rain to end the current drought in one month, or twelve to fifteen inches of rain to end the current drought in three months. Unfortunately, NOAA predicts the drought in interior Texas will persist, at least into September. The Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District asks everyone to use water responsibly. Using the following simple tips, one can easily help to conserve our water.

Water lawns and gardens during the early morning or in the evening, because evaporation loss can be 60% or more during the heat of the day. Proper watering once every five days or longer will help grass and shrubs develop deep roots. Over-watered turf will develop a short root system and will not be drought tolerant. Cover pools and spas when not in use to lessen evaporation loss. In the summer in Texas, a typical pool can easily lose 1.5 inches of water a week, or 1,800 gallons of water per month. Use brooms instead of water to clean sidewalks and driveways. Consider using native plants in landscaping, as they require little supplemental water once established.

Indoors, leaks can account for 10% or more of the water bill, and waste both water and energy. Most of the water lost to leaks is attributable to toilets. Leaky toilets and faucets are usually easy to repair. Also, there are many water-saving devices for indoor use on the market today, such as low flow plumbing fixtures (aerators, showerheads, and toilets). Replacing a conventional 3.5-gallon-per-flush toilet saves 1.9 gallons per flush, or 54%. Some older toilets use as much as 5 to 7 gallons per flush. Horizontal-axis clothes washers use about 40% less water per load than conventional vertical-axis appliances. Frontloading horizontal axis clothes washers conserve water by tumbling laundry through a small volume of water rather than by filling a tub. Tankless hot water heaters eliminate the "warm-up" water that is normally wasted waiting for hot water to travel the distance from the tank to the end use. Calculations have shown that a family of four, waiting for 1 minute for hot water each day, could save nearly 16,000 gallons per year using "instant" hot water heaters.

For more tips on conserving water indoors and outdoors, call (979) 968-3135 or visit the District's Office located at 254 N. Jefferson St., Room 600, in La Grange, or access the District's website at www.fayettecountygroundwater.com.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOURCE: FAYETTE COUNTY GCD