



In our community, we
put **more water** on our
gardens and lawns...

The Duval County Extension Service offers lawn and garden workshops at 1010 N. McDuff Ave., Jacksonville. Make checks payable to DCOHAC. For more information and a list of workshops, call 387-8850. The next one is Make & Take Rain Barrel Workshop, 10 a.m. to noon, March 11. Cost \$45. Pre-register and pay by March 6.



than we use for drinking,
washing, bathing and
flushing—combined!

Does it surprise you to learn that more than half the water JEA customers use is for outdoor purposes?

The good news is you can have a beautiful lawn and landscaping with less water just by following a few guidelines. These simple steps can also free up your schedule because you'll be spending less time on lawn maintenance.

So, while you're saving water, you are reducing your water bill and the amount of time you spend maintaining your yard and garden.

Start by selecting Florida-friendly plants—they save you time, money and water. After they become established, these plants do not need to be watered as frequently, and they can be expected to survive a dry spell with less water than other plants.

Begin with a soil analysis. The Duval County Extension office will analyze soil samples and give you information about acidity and alkalinity levels to help you choose the best plants for your yard.

Plan your landscape. Lay out your design based on conditions: sunny and shady, dry and moist, acidic and alkaline. Determine which plants can share areas depending on their preferences, and group those plants together matching the plants' needs with the areas you've identified in your yard.

Use turf grass wisely. Grass often is the biggest water user in your landscape. Consider using mulch or ground cover instead—except where children and pets play.

Mulch. Speaking of mulch, remember mulch helps retain moisture and moderate temperature. It also helps control weeds. Spread several inches of wood chips, pine straw or leaves around shrubs, trees and flowerbeds.

Irrigation basics save water and money

Water before 10 a.m. Water evaporates more quickly as temperatures increase, so you receive maximum benefit by watering before 10 a.m. —and the St. Johns River Water Management District bans watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Water your lawn every five to seven days in the summer and every 10 to 14 days in the winter. Over watering can encourage weeds and an unhealthy yard. If the blades fail to spring back when you step on them, it's time to water.

Install a moisture-sensing cut-off switch so your system operates only when needed.

Read and follow package directions if you apply fertilizer. Fertilizer increases the need for water, so apply it judiciously.

If you use 22,000 gallons of water each month, call JEA's LawnSmart experts (1-866-664-8644) who will schedule a visit to your home to show you how to have a green, beautiful lawn—without the extra costs associated with over watering.

For more tips, visit JEA's Conservation Center online at jea.com/green, and stop by the JEA booth at the [2008 Spring Home & Patio Show](#) (Feb. 28-March 2).