FYN Principle #2: Water Efficiently

Today on Gardening in a Minute: Florida Yards and Neighborhoods principle number two: water efficiently.

By choosing and operating a watering system correctly, you can reduce water bills, insect and disease problems, and maintenance requirements.

Many homeowners overwater. Overwatering does more than deplete the water supply. It also makes plants prone to pests and adds to stormwater runoff, which pollutes our water systems.

Don’t let the calendar tell you when to irrigate. Look to your plants for telltale signs of water need. Water your lawn only when at least half of it shows wilt. For landscape beds, consider using micro-irrigation systems to put water only where you need it.

To reduce water needs in your lawn and landscape, choose drought-tolerant, Florida-friendly plants.

For more information about watering efficiently, contact your local Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department with WUFT-FM.