

## Our water supply is under fire

First we would like to make it clear that our water supply – the amount of water available from the Chicot Aquifer – is plentiful. It is the demand for water at peak times of the day – **late afternoon and evening** – that is causing the water pressure in our system to drop dangerously low. The fact is, LUS has increased production from 17 million gallons of water a day to 20 million gallons per day in the last five years.

The resulting low water pressure is a major threat to fire-fighting efforts in Lafayette. In addition, low water pressure greatly increases the risk of contamination of our water system. So be part of the solution, conserve water.



Lafayette has a problem with low water pressure at peak user times, and you can be part of the solution. Conserving water will not only help alleviate our pressure problem, it's good for the environment and healthy for the earth. So let's all do our part to help – it's the right thing to do for yourself, your family and your community.

*Be part of the solution*



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Be  
part of the  
**SOLUTION**  
[conserve water]



# Let's show grassroots support

## for the watering schedule.

**A**s a result of low water pressure problems at peak hours, Lafayette Utilities System has established a water conservation ordinance that will be enforced from May to September of each year. We want everyone to know what it means and how it will affect you. The ordinance affects automated watering systems and sprinklers. Hand-held hose watering of your lawn or garden is not subject to this schedule. The lawn watering ordinance designates days for LUS customers as the following:

- Customers with odd numbered addresses (ending with 1, 3, 5, 7, 9) water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
- Customers with even numbered addresses (ending with 0, 2, 4, 6, 8) water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.
- There is no watering on Mondays, except as provided in the exceptions\* listed below.
- The designated times for lawn watering are from midnight to 2:00 in the afternoon (this is a total of 14 hours per day).

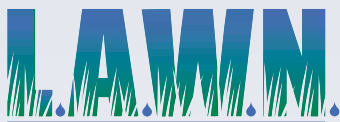
★ Exceptions to the ordinance are as follows:

- hand-watering (the hose must be actually held by hand for exemption);
- newly planted sod, landscaping and ground cover (initial 30-day exemption, daily watering during designated time, property owner must notify LUS to qualify);
- businesses that require water to operate, such as plant nurseries and commercial car washes;
- water from sources other than LUS (such as private wells or ponds).

For more info call: 291.5822



It's time to lay it on the



Lafayette Awareness of Watering Needs

Lafayette Awareness of Watering Needs (LAWN) is a program dedicated to educating everyone in our community about the new water conservation ordinance, the watering schedule and water conservation in general.

Watering by automated water systems and sprinklers is the number one cause of water pressure problems and the watering schedule can alleviate this problem. Here are a few tips for proper lawn maintenance:

- Experts agree, your lawn actually needs only one inch of water per week to remain green and healthy.
- Watering should be done on infrequent, but deep watering cycles of one inch at a time. To measure, simply place an empty tuna can in the path of your sprinkler and water until the level in the can reaches one inch.
- Consider buying a sprinkler timer. These are very cost-efficient and practical – you set the timer and watering is done automatically – you don't have to worry.
- Never water after 2:00 in the afternoon. Water evaporates extremely quickly in the heat of the day – essentially wasting your efforts.
- Purchase a rain gauge to always be aware of how much water your lawn is getting.
- Always turn irrigation systems off during rainy days, and for several days after a good soaking rain.
- Never leave a garden hose running. A running hose can produce up to 600 gallons of water usage in just a few hours.
- Keep lawns and shrub beds well weeded. Weeds will steal water from other plants.
- Mix polymers such as peat in with planting soil in shrub beds. These will help retain soil moisture.

| LUS<br>LAFAYETTE UTILITIES SYSTEM |  | LAWN WATERING SCHEDULE<br><i>be part of the solution, conserve water.</i> |     |      |     |      |     |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| DAY                               | SUN  | MON   | TUE | WED  | THU | FRI  | SAT |
| ADDRESS                           | even   |   | odd | even | odd | even | odd |
| TIME                              | water between hours of midnight and 2:00 in the afternoon. |   |     |      |     |      |     |

## It's not just your lawn, it's the law

The schedule above has been developed to assist our customers in adhering to the new water conservation ordinance. **Each designated day allows for 14 hours of watering time.**

We hope everyone follows the LAWN Program but there are some consequences for those who do not. Penalty provisions for not adhering to the watering schedule will be as follows:

- **First Offense – written warning**
- **Second Offense – \$50 fine**
- **Third Offense – \$100 fine and publication of name in a legal journal**
- **Fourth Offense – \$200 fine and publication of name in a legal journal**
- **Fifth Offense – \$500 fine and publication of name in a legal journal**

Fines will be added to the offender's utility bill. Enforcement will be by LUS water operations personnel. Persons cited can appeal within 15 days. Appeals will be heard at the Parking Adjudicator's office.

LUS wants to make it clear that any wholesale customer, including Youngsville, Broussard, Milton, Scott, Water District North and Water District South, will be penalized for not making provisions for enforcement of the ordinance in their own service areas.