



12.29 feet NGVD today, which is 1.95 feet below its historical average for this time of year but 0.67 feet higher than a year ago.

As evidence of the dry conditions:

- The 2011-2012 dry season deficit of 6.43 inches as of today is 3 inches greater than the same November-to-March time period during the 2010-2011 dry season. (The 2010-2011 dry season produced the driest October-to-mid-June period on record in South Florida.)
- January was the driest January in the SFWMD region since recordkeeping began in 1932.
- A short period in March from about the 15th to the 25th – historically the wettest time of the South Florida dry season – did not materialize.
- The U.S. Drought Monitor currently lists South Florida as being in a moderate to severe drought.

The difference between this dry season and last year's record dry conditions is record October 2011 rainfall that significantly boosted water supplies. But each year in April and May, longer days, more sunlight and higher evapotranspiration mean that water levels can fall rapidly.

### **Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule**

Adopted by the SFWMD Governing Board in November 2009, the Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule established a permanent two-day-a-week landscape watering schedule throughout the region, with a three-day-a-week provision for some counties.

*Reminder: Customers of the West Palm Beach and Lake Worth utilities remain under local orders limiting landscape irrigation to one day per week.*

Utilizing the rule's flexibility, some city and county governments have adopted alternative landscape irrigation ordinances or emergency actions based on local water demands or system limitations. For many areas, landscape watering schedules remain the same under year-round conservation measures as they were under water shortage restrictions.

Details on landscape irrigation limits are available by contacting your local government or by visiting [www.sfwmd.gov/2days](http://www.sfwmd.gov/2days).

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### **About the South Florida Water Management District**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage*

*and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*