

FAQs

What is a Level 4 drought?

A Level 4 drought is an “extreme drought,” with lake levels, stream flows and rainfall at or approaching the lowest levels in 100 years. In Georgia, a Level 4 drought has been declared for the northern third of the state, including the metropolitan Atlanta area. The declaration was made because rainfall in this portion of the state is more than 20 inches below normal (see <http://www.caes.uga.edu/topics/disasters/drought/totalrainfallmap.html>) this year, and stream flows are below normal across the state (see <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/?r=ga>). David Stooksbury, the State Climatologist, also is predicting that a La Niña effect will mean a mild, dry winter. Without winter rains to replenish the State’s lakes, rivers and reservoirs, the drought could significantly worsen by Spring.

What does a Level 4 drought mean for me?

During a Level 4 drought, virtually all outdoor water use is prohibited.

What are the prohibited uses?

Watering your lawn, operating an ornamental fountain, filling swimming pools and washing your car.

Can I water my newly installed landscaping?

Only if it was installed by a licensed or certified landscaper. In that case, you can water from 12:01 am to 10 am for 30 days after installation. You should keep your landscaper’s invoice.

If my lawn company treats or overseeds my lawn, can I water it in as requested?

Yes. You may water between 12:01 am and 10 am. You should keep all documentation from your lawn company.

Are charity car washes prohibited?

Yes.

What uses are exempted?

Watering personal food gardens and watering professionally installed landscapes for a period of 30 days after installation. All permitted watering must be between the hours of 12:01 am and 10 am.

Can I fill my swimming pool?

No.

What if my pool is new or has been repaired and must be filled so the sides will not collapse?

You may fill your pool to maintain its structural integrity. You must call 404-330-6091 to schedule an appointment to fill your pool. You can protect your pool from evaporation by using a pool cover. Once your pool is filled, you cannot re-fill it or top it off.

What commercial uses are exempt from the restrictions?

1. Professionally certified or licensed landscapers, golf course contractors and sports turf landscapers may water during installation and for 30 days following installation
2. Irrigation contractors may water during installation and as needed for proper maintenance and adjustments of irrigation systems and equipment only
3. Sod producers
4. Ornamental growers
5. Fruit and vegetable growers
6. Retail garden centers
7. hydro-seeding
8. Power- or pressure-washing
9. Construction sites
10. Producers of food and fiber
11. Car washes
12. Other activities essential to daily business
13. Watering-in or pesticides and herbicides on turf.

Are big commercial users like Turner Field exempted?

No. Turner Field, Georgia Tech, UGA, Piedmont Park, Stone Mountain and all other big users are subject to the same restrictions you are.

What can I do to conserve water and keep my garden alive?

Visit www.atlantawatershed.org and click on "Water-saving Tips."