



The Pinellas County Lawn Care Cheat Sheet

1 Your watering day & hours

Pinellas County is under a SWFWMD **Modified Phase III "Extreme" Water Shortage Order** — one-day-per-week lawn watering, extended through **October 1, 2026**. Watering on the wrong day can mean a fine — **\$180 plus court costs** in the City of St. Petersburg, or a **\$193 citation for Pinellas County Utilities customers** (doubling with each repeat). Citations are issued with no warning. Your exact day depends on *who bills you for water* and where you live.

Rules verified September 2026 — scan the QR code to confirm current status before each season

IN EFFECT NOW — Phase III shortage

Through Oct 1, 2026 (unless extended)

YOUR SITUATION	WATERING DAY
St. Pete city, even address (city water or well)	Saturday
St. Pete city, odd / no address	Sunday
Pinellas north of SR 580, even	Saturday (odd: Wed)
Pinellas south of SR 580, even	Tuesday (odd: Thu)

- **St. Pete city hours:** 5–9 a.m. or 7–11 p.m. — pick one.
- **Unincorporated Pinellas hours:** 12:01–4 a.m. or 8–11:59 p.m.
- Hand-watering plants & micro-irrigation (non-lawn): any day, before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- New sod/landscape: days 1–30 any day (St. Pete requires a variance — call 727-893-7261).

STANDARD SCHEDULE — when the order lifts

SWFWMD year-round rule (twice/week)

YOUR ADDRESS	WATERING DAYS
Even-numbered address	Thursday &/or Sunday
Odd-numbered address	Wednesday &/or Saturday

- Standard hours: before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- Your city or county may set stricter local rules — the QR link always shows the current one.

Reclaimed water (St. Pete): not currently restricted, but the city asks for max 3 days/week — even: Tue/Thu/Sat · odd: Wed/Fri/Sun, 5–9 a.m. or 7–11 p.m.

Watering rules change. This shortage order has been extended several times already. Scan to see the official current schedule before you set your timer:

pinellas.gov/watering-schedule-and-rules

St. Pete city customers: stpete.org → "Watering Restrictions" · Water Watch line 727-892-5300



2 Fertilizer blackout: June 1 – September 30

NO nitrogen
NO phosphorus

Sale & use banned county-wide
June 1 → Sept 30, every year

- It applies to homeowners, not just pros — Pinellas County ordinance, all municipalities included.
- Phosphorus is banned year-round unless a soil test documents a deficiency.
- Iron and micronutrient products are allowed during the ban — that's the fix for summer yellowing.
- No fertilizer within **10 feet of any water body** or seawall, any time of year.
- Sweep granules off driveways and sidewalks back onto the lawn — it's the law, and it keeps algae out of Tampa Bay.

3 St. Augustine grass: month-by-month for Pinellas

Built on UF/IFAS Extension guidance for central Florida and the Pinellas County fertilizer ordinance. Mowing height: 3.5–4" standard cultivars (2–2.5" dwarfs like Seville). Water ¾" per session, only when blades fold or footprints linger.

MONTH	MOW	WATER	FERTILIZE	WATCH FOR
Jan	As needed	Every 10–14 days if dry	—	Large patch in cool, wet spells
Feb	Resume regular	Increase slightly	Pre-emergent ~Feb 15	Crabgrass germination
Mar	Weekly	~2×/week if no rain	Soil test; prep spring feed	Chinch bugs in sunny spots
Apr	Weekly	2×/week	1st feed, early April	Chinch bugs, weeds
May	Weekly	2×/week	Last feed before ban, mid–late May	Peak chinch bugs, gray leaf spot
Jun–Sep	Weekly, keep 4"	Rain covers it; dry spells only	BAN — iron only if yellowing	Chinch bugs, gray leaf spot, webworms
Oct	Weekly → taper	Reduce as rain tapers	Post-ban feed, early Oct (15-0-15)	Large patch as nights cool
Nov	Every 10–14 days	As needed	Optional light feed	Large patch
Dec	As needed	Only if dry	—	Rare frost; don't feed brown grass

Fertilizer rates: 1 lb nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft per application, 65%+ slow-release; Pinellas caps total N at 4 lb/1,000 sq ft/year. Three feedings (Apr · May · Oct) keeps most lawns legal and healthy.

4 RULES THAT MATTER ALL YEAR

- **Mow high.** 3.5–4", never scalp — it's the cheapest pest control there is.
- **Water deep & rare.** ¾" per session; daily shallow watering grows fungus, not roots.
- **Feed 3×, not 6×.** April, May, October — inside the legal windows.
- **Scout monthly.** Coffee-can test for chinch bugs at the edge of any yellow patch.

SUMMER YELLOWING? DON'T REACH FOR NITROGEN

- During the ban, yellow blades usually mean **iron deficiency** — use foliar iron (ban-compliant).
- Yellow patches in full sun near pavement → **test for chinch bugs first.**
- Oblong gray spots on blades after daily rain → **gray leaf spot**; back off watering.

Want this handled **for you?**

Mowing at the right height, ban-compliant feeding timed to the legal windows, irrigation compliance, and monthly pest scouting — on autopilot.

(727) 218-4044

Sources (official): SWFWMD District Water Restrictions (swfwmd.state.fl.us/business/epermitting/district-water-restrictions) · City of St. Petersburg Watering Restrictions (stpete.org) · Pinellas County Watering Schedule & Rules and Fertilizer Ordinance (pinellas.gov) · UF/IFAS ENH5/LH010 "St. Augustinegrass for Florida Lawns" · UF/IFAS ENH-73 "Yearly Calendar for St. Augustinegrass Care." Watering rules verified September 2026; restrictions may change — scan the QR code on page 1 for the current schedule.