

March 24, 2011

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Burleson has fallen below historical rainfall averages for the past five months.

According to statistics kept by the City's facilities maintenance department, the historical rainfall average from January through March is 7.08 inches. In that time period for 2011, only 2.02 inches have fallen so far. That is more than 5 inches below average.

The historical rainfall average for October thru March is 15.87. From October 2010 to March 2011, the city has only seen 6.5 inches of rain, with seven more days to go in the month. That is 9.37 inches below the average.

The watering of lawns and landscapes using irrigation systems (watering with sprinklers) in the city of Burleson is prohibited for both residential and commercial water customers, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. year round; however variances may be granted under certain conditions. The purpose of this restriction is to prevent the unnecessary loss of water emitted from sprinklers due to evaporation. Watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. is permitted only if using a hand-held hose or soaker hose (drip system).

If you want to save water and money, try the Texas Smartscape program. March is SmartScape Month. The North Central Texas Council of Governments is teaching homeowners, through Texas SmartScape, how to use hardy native and adapted plants in yards and landscapes. Search the interactive database at [www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com) to find the plants right for your yard. Use the landscape design tool to guide you through the landscaping process and find tips to help you care for and maintain your SmartScape yard.

According to Texas Smartscape, most lawns only need watering once every five-seven days in the growing season and every 15 - 20 days in the winter. Install drip irrigation in flower beds and at the roots of shrubs. Drip irrigation delivers almost 95 percent of the water to plants. Place a 3-inch layer of organic mulch around plants and on top of the soil in flower beds. This will hold in water to keep the soil moist longer.