



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District
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RESIDENTS NEED TO ADAPT TO CHANGES IN TECHNIQUES FOR SUBDIVISION PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

For Immediate Release
Nampa, Idaho – May 28, 2009

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The arrival of hot weather signals the traditional start of urban irrigation season as property owners turn on sprinklers to off set the area's semi-arid weather conditions. So the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District wants its thousands of property owners using pressurized urban irrigation systems to think like farmers rather than city folk to get maximum benefit from their lawn and garden sprinkler systems.

“Pressurized urban irrigation systems involve irrigation practices that are common to farmers but that often seem foreign to home owners used to municipal water supply sprinkler systems. For example, the idea you should only irrigate your lawn at night does not apply when you are using pressurized systems that make use of canal water,” said John Anderson, NMID water superintendent.

In pressurized systems, canal water is being supplied to irrigation systems 24/7 so the systems are designed to supply water to a large percentage of users at all times. Pressurized irrigation system users are encouraged to irrigate at any time of the day, a method contrary to municipal systems that recommend that irrigation be done at night to hold down expensive municipal water costs by avoiding evaporation.

“It's perfectly normal to see homeowners with pressurized systems watering their lawns, gardens and landscaping during the middle of the day.” Anderson said. “It is actually bad for the District's pressurized urban irrigation systems to have all users focus on a narrow time period such as during night time hours. The high demand on the pumps that feed pressurized systems can actually result in reduced water pressure.”

Pressurized systems use canal water diverted from the Boise River rather than municipal drinking water to irrigate grass, landscaping, shrubbery and gardens. The result is an estimated annual savings of more than 5 Billion gallons of groundwater. This annual ground water savings is viewed by growth planning experts as especially crucial in a valley where demand for domestic water is expected to increase by up to 80 percent by the year 2025.

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Another benefit of pressurized irrigation is that the average cost to irrigate urban lots typically is less expensive than a system that uses more expensive domestic water. At present, the approximate annual cost for residents using NMID pressurized irrigation on a 1/4-acre lot cost for the urban system is \$90.00.

Debris down to 1/16th of an inch is filtered from the water and delivered at a pressure of 40-60 PSI (pounds per square inch) which is equivalent to the pressure of a municipal system.

The District's water rights dictate the flow rate of water to which each user is entitled. That means NMID pressurized systems are typically designed to deliver no more than 5-7 gallons of water per minute to an individual watering station.

The District has more consumer information regarding pressurized irrigation available on its Internet web site: www.nmid.org.

The Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District is a water storage, conveyance and distribution system founded in 1904. The District also supplies irrigation water to some 69,000 acres of farmland in Ada and Canyon counties.

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