

July 14, 2010

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**FROM:** Board of Selectmen, Merrimac Water Department.

The Board of Selectmen has approved mandatory restrictions on watering of lawns effective immediately. At this time, the ban is intended to restrict the number of days and hours residents may water their lawns. This is the first step toward reducing water consumption. If this method does not alleviate the problems caused by overuse of outdoor watering, steps will be taken to impose a more restrictive ban.

With the current drought conditions we have seen an overall increase in daily pumping with no recharge to the groundwater. The groundwater levels have dropped 1 foot during the last week. The department will closely monitor those levels to ensure they do not reach levels that would create supply problems.

With the current conditions, residents may only water lawns on the following days and only during the permitted hours:

Even addresses: Wednesday and Saturday only between the hours of 6am-9am and 6pm-9pm  
Odd addresses: Thursday and Sunday only between the hours of 6am-9am and 6pm-9pm

Residents may continue to use water for gardens and flowers, but are asked to do so only when necessary. The department is asking residents to voluntarily curtail all other unnecessary use of water until further notice.

Violators of the restrictions will receive a written warning for the first offense. A second offense will result in fines of \$50, with \$100 fines for each subsequent violation.

Residents with questions or concerns should contact the Water Dept. office at 346-8311.