



POA Ponds Committee *'Pond Views'*

August 15, 2019

Pond Plants Need Water, Too!

We are now going on three months of near “drought” conditions. Brunswick County Public Utilities issued a Stage 1 – Water Conservation Alert in mid-July. They have asked residents to conserve water use, including limiting irrigation to three days per week. If you couple this with the unusual drop in pond levels throughout St. James, you could have a problem.

If you purchased plants from the Ponds Committee’s plant sale in May and picked them up in mid-June, how are they doing so far? We have heard of some issues related to lack of rain with new plantings. Planting near the edge of a pond and assuming there is enough water in the soil to sustain your new plants may be wrong. Assess exactly where your plants are situated on the bank.



Pond Bank Stabilization and Buffer Zone. Does everything get watered?

Are they being covered by your irrigation system? The plants put in to stabilize the pond bank pictured above do receive some irrigation, but many near the water's edge do not. If they happen to be in a muddy zone, they should be fine. The plants just above that moist area, if they are not getting water, could be in trouble. One of the reasons may be that your irrigation system was not installed to cover low areas on your pond bank. Now that you have plants there, watering may become a manual task if Mother Nature goes on hiatus.

The owner of Lumber River Native Plants, Jep Whitlock, suggests

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help a lot with moisture retention. Heavy mulching will help as well. I think that soaking the plants well 3 times a week would be enough to keep them happy. That's taking the hose and watering each plant until the soil around it is saturated, not just turning on a sprinkler in that area."

Establishing your pond plants can be challenging enough, so if you've made the effort, make sure your watering regimen works for all of them.

The Ponds Committee

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