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Smart Irrigation Management during Drought

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San Antonio faced Stage One drought restrictions for six months of 2006. Customers were permitted to use irrigation systems on a designated day during the allowed watering window. Larger properties had to establish early in drought restrictions how to use their limited time for irrigation. Landscape variances for non-athletic fields were considered only when sites could show that plant material could not be sustained within the watering window. Sites with excellent irrigation systems capable of isolating priority plants or with microirrigation exempt from watering windows maintained healthy landscapes. Controllers with features such as cycle and soak made the most of water applied in tight watering windows. In contrast sites where poor irrigation never put water down deeply into woody plant root systems resulted in plant death with no rains came. In deeper levels of drought smart irrigation becomes even more crucial to keeping long-term landscape investment while coping with drought reality.

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