

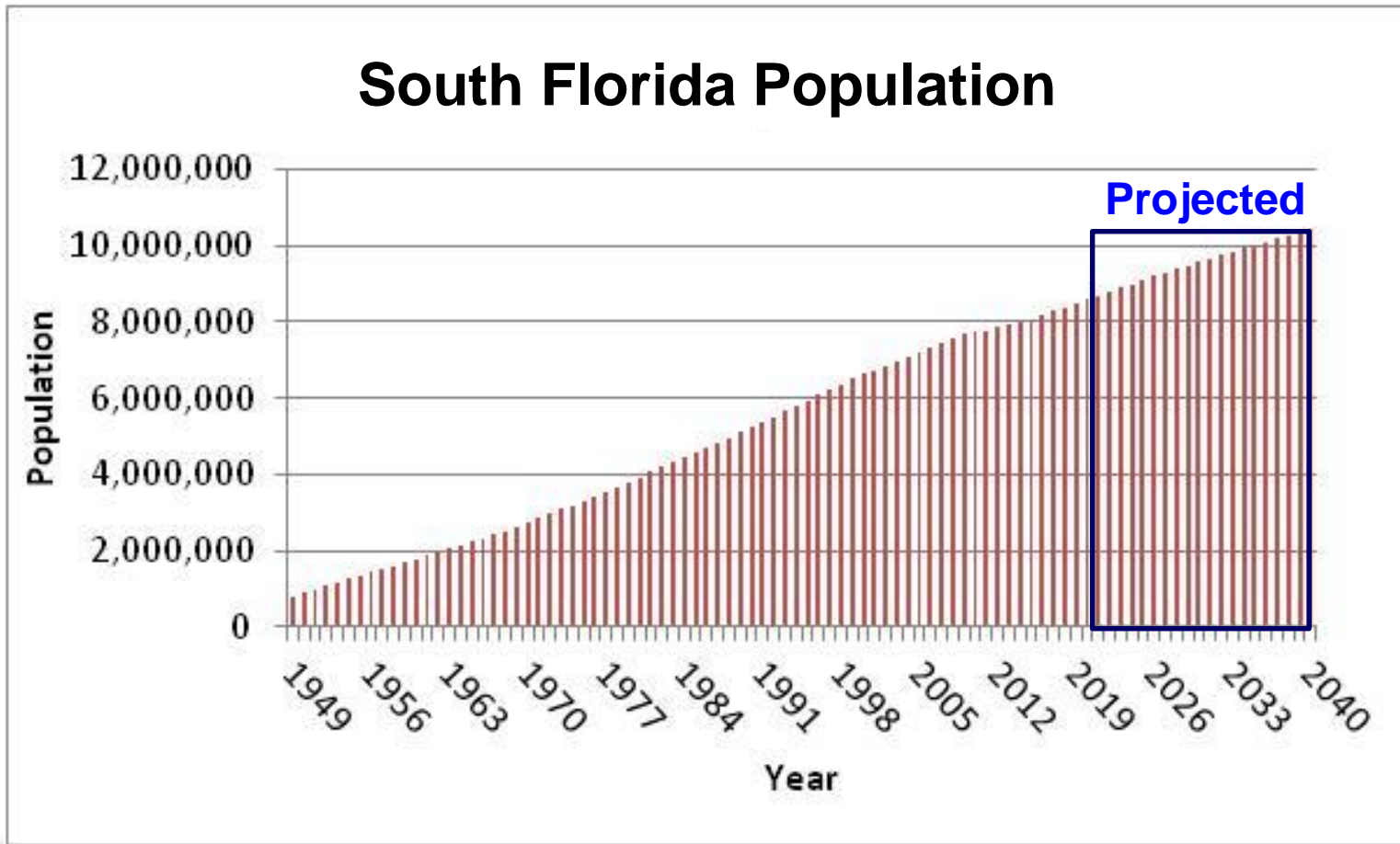
Governing Board Initiative: Local Adoption of Year-Round Irrigation Ordinances

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Fort Pierce City Commission Conference
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South Florida Water Management District Population Growth



**Each new person increases demands on
our water resources**



SFWMD Comprehensive Water Conservation Program

- ◆ Comprehensive Water Conservation Program
 - ◆ Voluntary and incentive-based initiatives
 - ◆ Regulatory initiatives
 - ◆ Education and outreach initiatives
- ◆ Create a year-round conservation ethic
- ◆ Key strategies and action steps:
 - ◆ A focus on goal-based conservation planning
 - ◆ Conservation-based rate structures designed to encourage water savings and discourage high volume use
 - ◆ Retrofitting of outdated, water-guzzling plumbing devices
 - ◆ Year-round landscape irrigation measures
 - ◆ Adopting and incorporating Florida-friendly landscaping principles
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ A call for governments and large users to lead by example



Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Measures (Chapter 40E-24, F.A.C.)

- ◆ The Year-Round Rule was implemented Districtwide in 2010
- ◆ The Year-Round Rule targets the largest portion of urban water use
 - ◆ It is estimated that more than 50% of all utility-supplied water is used to irrigate lawns
- ◆ It was envisioned that local governments would implement these conservation measures through the adoption of local ordinances for consistency

**Rules of the
South Florida Water Management District**

**Mandatory Year-Round Landscape
Irrigation Conservation Measures
CHAPTER 40E-24, F.A.C.**



Effective: July 14, 2014



Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Measures

- ◆ Provide a framework for consistent implementation to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's water resources
- ◆ Increase water use efficiency
 - ◆ Limit irrigation (supplemental to rain) to an amount that will sustain healthy lawns during normal rainfall years
- ◆ Prevent and curtail wasteful water use practices
- ◆ St. Johns River and Southwest Florida water management districts have similar rules in place



Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Measures





- ◆ Applies to landscape irrigation only
- ◆ Applies to all sources (wells, canals, utility)
- ◆ Use of reclaimed water is exempt
- ◆ Restricts landscape irrigation to 2 days per week for conservation purposes
 - ◆ 3-day option for some counties for specific circumstances
- ◆ No irrigation between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- ◆ Provisions for establishment of new plantings



Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Measures

No watering from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



IF YOUR ADDRESS ENDS IN...	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1, 3, 5, 7, 9							
0, 2, 4, 6, 8							

Properties with no address number follow Even schedule



2020 SFWMD Governing Board Initiative

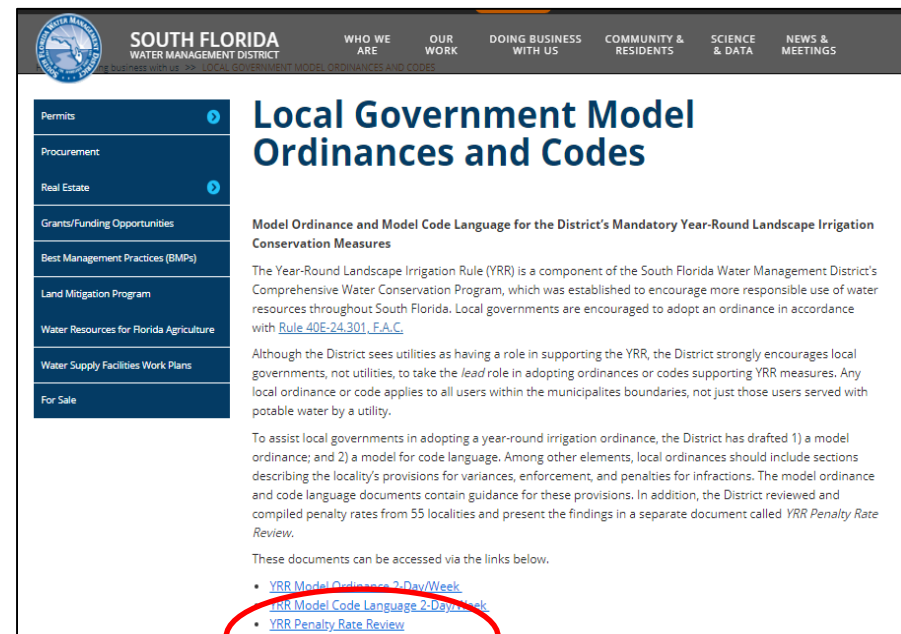
- ◆ Consistent rules and ordinances in place across South Florida so residents understand and comply with all irrigation requirements
- ◆ Partnership supports a safe and reliable water supply for South Florida's future
- ◆ Year-round rule encourages local governments to implement conservation measures through the adoption of ordinances
- ◆ Effective implementation of conservation measures that safeguard the resource cannot be done by District staff alone



2020 SFWMD Governing Board Year-Round Irrigation Initiative

- The SFWMD's Governing Board directed staff to contact counties and municipalities regarding the adoption of local ordinances Districtwide
- To assist local governments, SFWMD staff have drafted a model ordinance and model code

<https://www.sfwmd.gov/doing-business-with-us/local-government-model-ordinances-and-codes>



The screenshot shows the website header with the SFWMD logo and navigation links: WHO WE ARE, OUR WORK, DOING BUSINESS WITH US, COMMUNITY & RESIDENTS, SCIENCE & DATA, NEWS & MEETINGS. A left sidebar contains a menu with items: Permits, Procurement, Real Estate, Grants/Funding Opportunities, Best Management Practices (BMPs), Land Mitigation Program, Water Resources for Florida Agriculture, Water Supply Facilities Work Plans, and For Sale. The main content area features the title 'Local Government Model Ordinances and Codes' and the following text:

Model Ordinance and Model Code Language for the District's Mandatory Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures

The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule (YRR) is a component of the South Florida Water Management District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Program, which was established to encourage more responsible use of water resources throughout South Florida. Local governments are encouraged to adopt an ordinance in accordance with [Rule 40E-24.301, F.A.C.](#)

Although the District sees utilities as having a role in supporting the YRR, the District strongly encourages local governments, not utilities, to take the *lead* role in adopting ordinances or codes supporting YRR measures. Any local ordinance or code applies to all users within the municipalities boundaries, not just those users served with potable water by a utility.

To assist local governments in adopting a year-round irrigation ordinance, the District has drafted 1) a model ordinance; and 2) a model for code language. Among other elements, local ordinances should include sections describing the locality's provisions for variances, enforcement, and penalties for infractions. The model ordinance and code language documents contain guidance for these provisions. In addition, the District reviewed and compiled penalty rates from 55 localities and present the findings in a separate document called *YRR Penalty Rate Review*.

These documents can be accessed via the links below.

- [YRR Model Ordinance 2-Day/Week](#)
- [YRR Model Code Language 2-Day/Week](#)
- [YRR Penalty Rate Review](#)

Elements of a Year-Round Rule Ordinance

A properly constructed year-round irrigation ordinance has three elements:

1. Days irrigation is allowed based on address, and time (hours) irrigation is either not allowed (restricted from) or is allowed (restricted to) and exceptions/exemptions
2. Compliance and enforcement provisions (may contain actual penalties)
3. A variance procedure for persons who cannot meet the prescribed days and allowable times but have a proposed alternative schedule that meets the intent of the rule



Other Outdoor Water Conservation Measures

- ◆ Rain shutoff device – required on all irrigation systems
- ◆ Advanced irrigation controllers
 - ◆ Soil moisture sensors
 - ◆ Weather station
- ◆ Irrigation system audits
- ◆ Florida-Friendly Landscaping™



Conservation Should Be a Way of Life



Thank You

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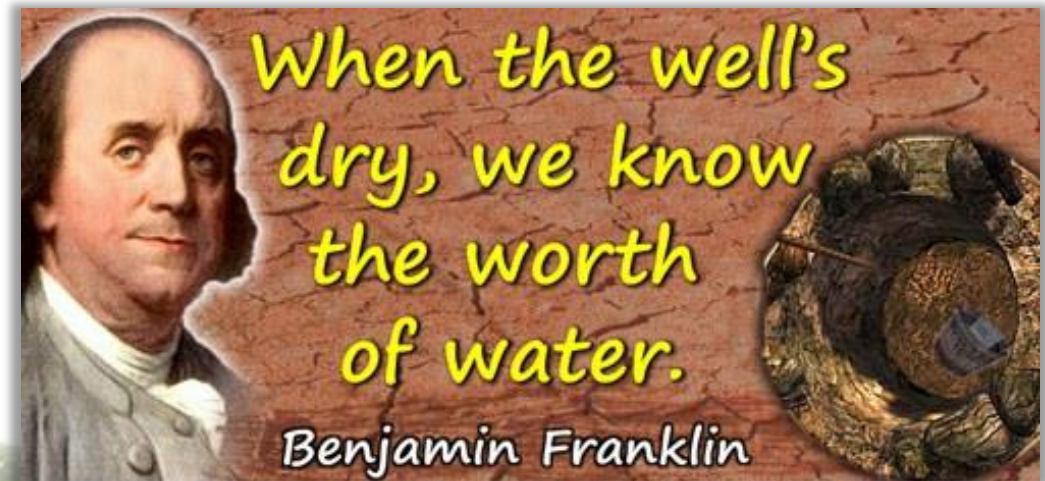
**Currently working remotely*

Kathryn LaMartina, PMP

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Back pocket slides



Irrigation Water Use

Historically, **more than half** of Public Water Supply is used by residents for landscape irrigation

25 - 74%

Water Research Foundation (2016)



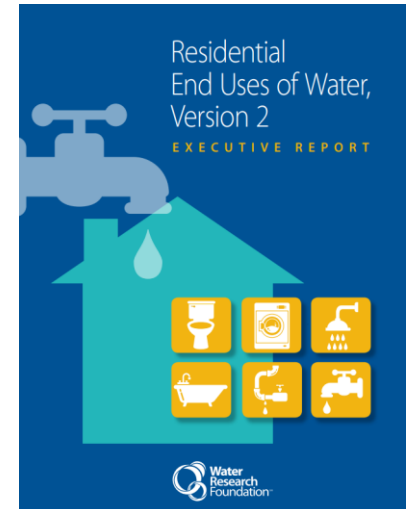
53%

AquaCraft (2011)

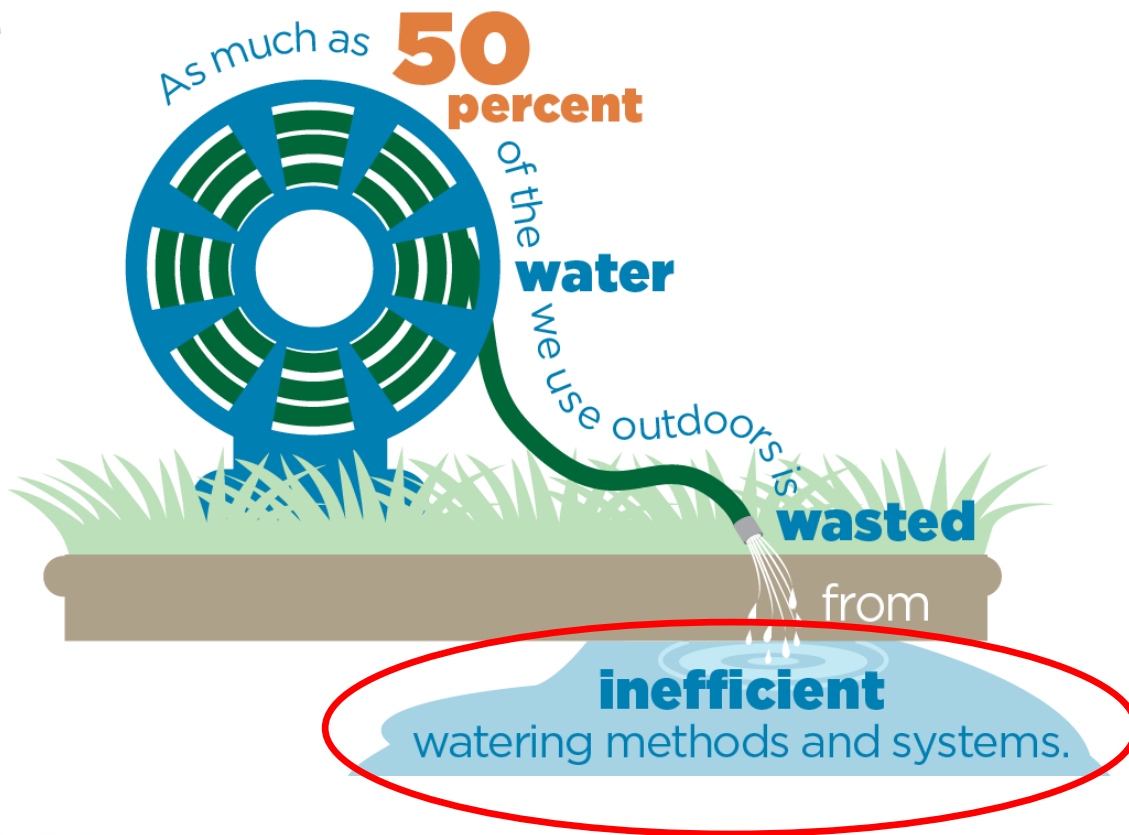


58%

Mayer et al. (1999)

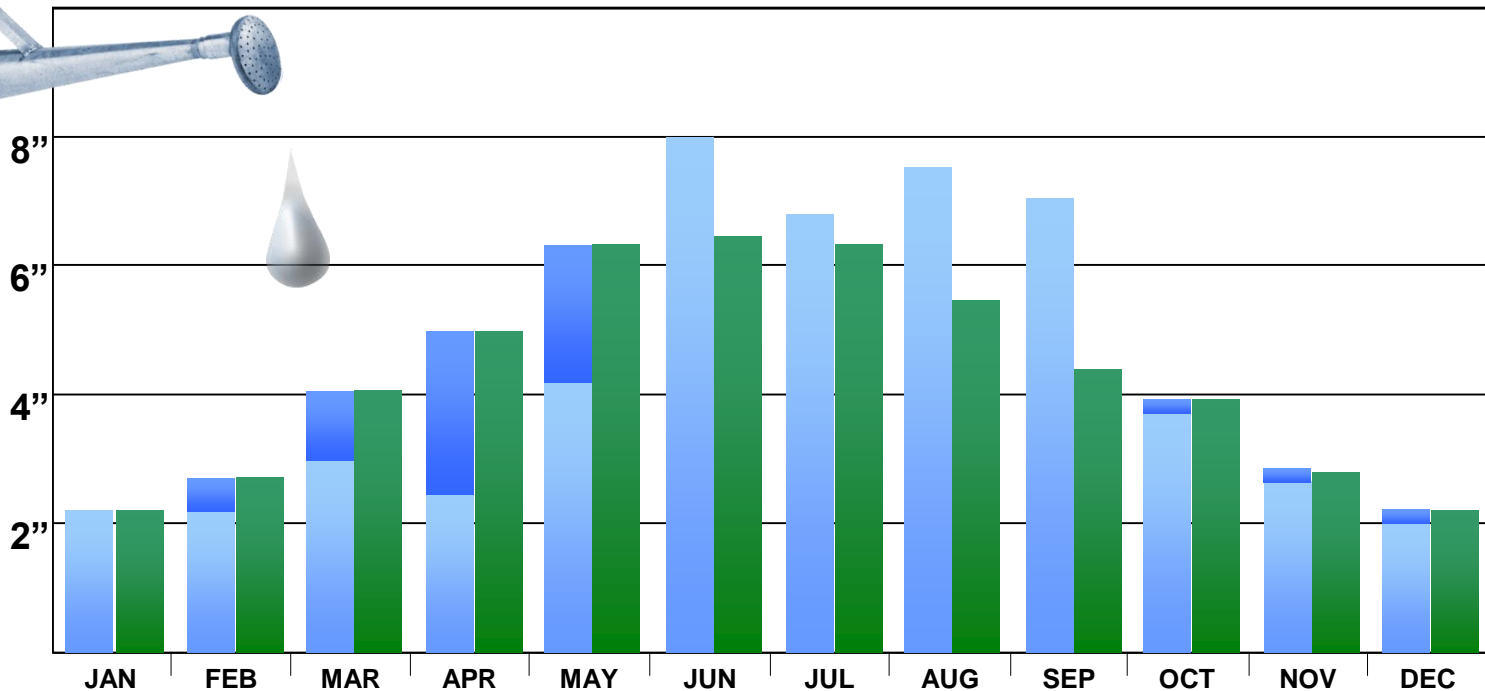


Irrigation Water Use



How Much Irrigation Does a Lawn Really Need?

Seasonal rainfall typically provides enough water, except during height of dry season



 Plant needs

 Typical rainfall (South Florida)

 Irrigation water needed

