

Evapotranspiration and Florida Water Sustainability: Insights from a Decade of Research

Nearly a decade ago, representatives from Florida Water Management Districts, State Agencies, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Florida Universities met as the Florida Evapotranspiration Committee to identify current challenges in water management due to gaps in evapotranspiration knowledge. Since that time, systematic advances have been made in quantifying evapotranspiration in Florida that enhance the consistency and reliability of Florida water needs assessments. These advances principally derive from improved quality and resolution of climate data, better measures of plant water use derived from experimental studies, and enhanced modeling capabilities. Insights across studies will be synthesized within the context of Florida water sustainability and challenges for the next decade will be addressed.

Key words: Evapotranspiration, Florida, Experiments, Water Management Districts