

Title: Understanding Urban Outdoor Water Use

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Abstract: Water use outdoors in urban areas in Florida can vary considerably. The variation in use is not always based on the actual requirements of the plant material, but on the habits of homeowners and water managers and on the failure to keep irrigation systems properly maintained. In order for water utilities to develop effective water use efficiency programs, the amount of water actually applied outdoors under various scenarios and the method used for the application needs to be known and compared to what is actually required. The difference between the actual and what is actually required by the plant material is potential water savings. Water utility billing records and data from other sources are analyzed using different methods to compare procedures that estimate water used in various outdoor urban settings. In addition to estimating water used under different methods, a comparison is made to the actual plant water requirements using an evapotranspiration estimation method and actual weather data.

Challenge: Population growth and land use change impacts to water resource sustainability

Issue: Water availability and allocation

Keywords: Outdoor Water Irrigation Efficiency