

4th UF Water Institute Symposium

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**UF IFAS Water Initiative Panel: protecting
Florida's waters**

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Late 1980's

- **Created linkage between high water use/peaks to outdoor irrigation. Used extension staff to evaluate education, technology and controls.**
- **Developed recommendations and initiated irrigation evaluation program with IFAS assistance for urban use. Used USDA SCS as well.**

1990's

- **Streamlined MIL process throughout Florida and evaluated differing irrigation evaluation programs**
- **Funded research on deficit irrigation water requirements for turfgrass in Florida**
- **Began funding the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program- links to IFAS and research**

2000's

- **Funded research on how to grow groundcovers for quick harvest and use in developments.**
- **Promoted funding of research on both ET controllers and SMS to member governments/WMD as alternative technologies that could save water.**
- **Coordinated with both IFAS and FIS to create linkage between research and on ground implementation of technologies.**

2000's

- **Pushed for research to be recognized and used by EPA WaterSense product certification programming.**
- **Linkages between research, recognition programs, standards, codes and legislative requirements have been created.**
- **Stronger relationships between irrigation water use and efficiency promoted and researched through IFAS.**
- **Research into plant establishment periods focus on impacts associated with water shortages and requirements for supplemental irrigation in rules.**

Research outputs that have statewide, if not larger, impact

- **Soil moisture sensors**
- **ET controllers**
- **Minimum water use requirements for turfgrass**
- **Rain sensor research- statewide requirements for their use not tied to research. Tampa Bay- increased technology (with lack of pre installation research) indicates water use is higher than without it.**
- **Integration of research into various parts of the FFL programming.**
- **National Example: Tree growth research conducted through IFAS used to establish certification program watering in periods.**