

THE THIRST OF OUR URBAN LANDSCAPES

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Florida's rapid population growth is placing an unprecedented strain on our water resources. This presentation explores the critical issue of water use within urban landscapes. We will examine overall water consumption patterns, the proliferation of permanent in-ground irrigation systems, and the high variability in water usage, all of which underscore the necessity for a change in landscape design practices.

By dissecting how water is used in urban landscapes, we can identify areas where conservation efforts should be targeted. High variability in water consumption illustrates the importance of a tailored approach to water conservation.

This presentation underscores the urgency of addressing the water crisis in our urban landscapes as Florida's population continues to grow. By understanding water consumption patterns, recognizing the impact of in-ground irrigation systems, and acknowledging the significant variability in water use, we can develop targeted conservation strategies. Embracing sustainable landscaping practices is essential for the long-term health of our water resources and the sustainability of our urban environments.

PRESENTER BIO: Dr. Taylor works with the Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) and the Center for Land Use Efficiency (CLUE) as an IFAS State Specialized Extension Agent. His research interests include utility data analysis to identify effective water and energy conservation measures and evaluation of land development impacts. Dr. Taylor leads the H2OSAV extension program, providing data analysis tools and data-driven insights that help regional utility providers, governmental agencies and extension agents optimize water conservation efforts.