

power generation, 18.6 percent to public supplies, 10.7 percent to self-supplied industrial users, and 4.2 percent to rural domestic and livestock uses. Water sources and use are shown by the USGS drawing, Figure 1.

Although thermoelectric power production requires the second largest withdrawal of freshwater, it accounts for only 1.5 percent of the total water consumed in the state (Leach).

Irrigation accounts for the largest share of consumptive use of water.* Of the 3 billion gallons per day withdrawn for irrigation, about half is considered to be consumptive use, according to USGS calculations. Most of the water withdrawn for irrigation is accounted for by counties in the lower two-thirds of peninsular Florida. Surface water is the major source of irrigation water in Palm Beach and neighboring counties on the lower east coast. Groundwater is the principal source of water for irrigation in the northern two-thirds of peninsular Florida. The amount of water used to irrigate crops in any given year bears a close inverse relationship to the amount of rainfall received during the growing season.

Information on the total freshwater pumped for public supplies was obtained from 532 county, municipal and private utility systems serving 7.8 million people (Leach). The seven most populous counties -- Broward, Dade, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach and Pinellas -- account for 68 percent of total freshwater use for public supplies. Except for Orange County, all seven counties are located on Florida's coastline, a fact which requires Florida's water management decision makers to confront the issues of salt water intrusion and interjurisdictional water transfers.

Total water withdrawn by industries has decreased in recent years as a direct result of water conservation and recycling by industrial plants (Leach). Of the 839 million gallons per day withdrawn for industrial use, most went for pulp and paper processing, chemical products, and phosphate mining. The total has decreased from 1,059 million gallons per day in 1970.

*For a detailed report of irrigation water use in Florida, refer to "Irrigation in Florida Agriculture in the 80's," IFAS Bulletin 196, by D.S. Harrison, et al, 1983.