

Vegetable Growers Install Drip Irrigation in Southwest Florida

According to a survey by Gene McAvoy, an extension agent and county extension director in southwest Florida, vegetable growers are installing drip irrigation at an increased pace. Over the past five years, adoption of more efficient low volume drip irrigation systems by vegetable growers has increased dramatically in Southwest Florida from approximately 35% of the total acreage to over 65% of the total acreage converting from traditional seepage irrigation systems to more efficient drip irrigation systems. This change over to drip has the potential to reduce water consumption by nearly 2 billion gallons per week. Educational programs are being developed to help growers learn how to efficiently manage these drip systems.