

What is an Agricultural MIL?

Mobile Irrigation Labs (MIL) were developed to help people conserve water by evaluating irrigation systems and their operation. This voluntary, non-regulatory approach to water conservation is offered as a **free public service** to both the urban and agricultural communities. The proper use of an efficient irrigation system conserves water, saves money, and protects the quality of our water supply.



For more information:

Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. It is listed in your telephone directory under Government Offices - U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov

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Mobile Irrigation Labs



Conserving water and protecting water quality in Florida.

Conserving water and protecting water quality are two top priorities in Florida, particularly in agricultural areas of the state where regulations and consumptive use restrictions continue to increase.



The Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) technician will schedule an appointment for an evaluation with agricultural producers and others who own or operate irrigation systems. The evaluation begins with on-site observations and measurements of the system in operation. The information collected is analyzed to identify potential problems with the system design, operation, and maintenance.



A confidential report makes recommendations for system improvements and an irrigation



scheduling guide is developed to assist in proper operation. Through the service, growers learn to save water by operating their irrigation systems more effectively.

What Are the Benefits?

When water is not applied uniformly, some plants receive too much water and some too little. To compensate, more water is applied to assure all plants receive enough. Applying too much water can leach valuable fertilizers and pesticides past the roots. Most growers recognize that over-watering reduces crop yields and raises operating costs; therefore, efficient water application is essential for crop production. In addition, Florida's sandy soils permit water and dissolved chemicals to seep quickly, and unfiltered, into the underground aquifers that contain most of our fresh water.



The agricultural industry is greatly affected by the increasing population in Florida. As urbanization continues to expand, so does the need to produce more crops with fewer resources.

Growers are facing greater restrictions, new regulations, and increasing costs of water usage every year. MIL technicians help owners and operators to irrigate more efficiently by increasing uniformity and minimizing over-watering, while producing quality agricultural products.