Agricultural Water Conservation in Texas

Texas ag producers work every day to grow quality food, fiber, and feed crops with a decreasing amount of available irrigation water.

WaterIQ.org is a public awareness water conservation program that educates Texans about their water resources.

The Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS.org) houses more than 1 million frames of aerial photography and serves as the clearinghouse for natural resource and geospatial data. Got maps?

WaterDataforTexas.org provides the most comprehensive information available on current conditions in Texas’ major water supply reservoirs, groundwater level recorder wells, and all things drought.

The Interactive State Water Plan (texasstatewaterplan.org) includes tools that highlight water demands and water needs based on regional water planning data.

All Texans are challenged to conserve our limited surface water and groundwater supplies.

Our mission
The Texas Water Development Board’s mission is to provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.

The TWDB educates Texans about our water resources and regional water planning to ensure sustainable and affordable water for Texas.

Check out all of our online resources.

Stay connected:

Cotton and wheat photos courtesy USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) supports the vibrant and diverse Texas economy by providing water planning, data collection and dissemination, financial assistance, and technical assistance services to the citizens of Texas. Agriculture contributes more than $100 billion annually to our economy and is vitally important to rural communities throughout the state.

Water is limited. Innovation is unlimited.

Texas farmers and ranchers are leading the way in agricultural water conservation and innovation, implementing regional water planning strategies to address future water needs. The TWDB provides ag producers with resources and opportunities to engage in efforts to ensure the long-term viability and prosperity of a thriving ag economy. Through grants and low-interest loans, the TWDB helps ag producers maximize water use efficiency while maintaining productivity and economic viability.

The TWDB has provided more than $100 million in grants and low-interest loans through the Agricultural Water Conservation Program.

Through participation and representation in the regional water planning process, the agricultural community helps identify opportunities to conserve water in agriculture and recommends strategies that implement best management practices and result in improved irrigation efficiency.

The TWDB’s online best management practices guide outlines proven, cost-effective conservation measures like replacing outdated sprinkler nozzles to increase water application efficiency. Visit www.savetexaswater.org to participate in the best management practices development and review process. While there, check out how Blue Legacy Award winners are conserving water every day.

From agency inception following the 1950s drought of record, the TWDB has provided more than $15 billion in grants and loans.

Contact us to see how you can participate in a TWDB-funded agricultural water conservation project. www.twdb.texas.gov 512-463-7847

Water for Texas

Through all these initiatives and programs, the TWDB supports Water for Texas.

Our financial assistance programs fund water projects to help local communities secure adequate water supplies for their current residents and future generations to come.

In 2013, Texas voters approved the creation of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT), a financial assistance program that helps communities develop and optimize water supplies at cost-effective rates.

Get involved and make sure your projects are in your regional water plan to ensure eligibility for SWIFT and other TWDB funding programs!
Conserve Texas Water
Learn, participate, and make a difference.

www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation

Demo Project on the Southern High Plains
The TWDB funded the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation through Texas Tech University to explore agricultural production practices that slow depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer (Region O). For information on findings and future field days, visit www.TAWC.us.

Demo Project on the Northern High Plains
Innovative water conservation practices and technologies have allowed producers to grow 200 bushels of corn with only 12 inches of applied irrigation water (Region A). Find out how on the district website: www.northplainsgcd.org.

Groundwater Management
Did you know GCDs work together within GMAs to develop DFCs by using GAMs that the TWDB runs to estimate MAGs? Huh? Visit www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater to learn about this alphabet soup of acronyms and how groundwater is managed near you.

Demo Project on the Rio Grande
The TWDB funded the Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency through the Harlingen Irrigation District to integrate state-of-the-art irrigation network control techniques with on-farm irrigation management in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Region M). For information on findings and future training events, visit www.TexasAWE.org.

All About Texas Water
Texas uses a bottom-up approach to water planning through public involvement in 16 regional water planning areas. Visit www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning to learn how you can get involved.

Pictured on the map are planning areas (labeled A–P), irrigated agricultural regions (in green), surface water features, urban areas, and the major aquifers of Texas (key below):

- Carrizo–Wilcox (outcrop)
- Carrizo–Wilcox (subcrop)
- Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone–outcrop)
- Edwards (Balcones Fault Zone–subcrop)
- Edwards–Trinity (Plateau–outcrop)
- Edwards–Trinity (Plateau–subcrop)
- Gulf Coast
- Hueco–Mesilla Bolsons
- Ogallala
- Pecos Valley
- Seymour
- Trinity (outcrop)
- Trinity (subcrop)

Looking for minor aquifers? Find all of our maps at www.twdb.texas.gov(mapping).

TWDB Educational Programs include K-12 school materials, conservation literature, and statewide outreach. Visit www.twdb.texas.gov/kids to find out how to conserve water where you live.

www.twdb.texas.gov
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