



# Water Circularity in CEA Facilities: Reduce, Remediate, Reuse

September 28, 2023



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A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark jacket, is shown from the chest up, tending to a large number of green cannabis plants in a grow room. He is using his hands to carefully inspect or trim the leaves of the plants. The background is slightly blurred, showing more plants and the interior of the grow room.

SECTION 01

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# INTRODUCTION

# POLL ALERT!

What kind of facility are you cultivating in?

- Small indoor building
- Warehouse
- Standard, vented greenhouse
- Semi-Sealed, air-conditioned greenhouse
- Container farms or pods
- N/A



# Agenda

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Welcome, Introductions and Context	1:30 - 1:40
Economic Rationale and Water Conservation Practices	1:41 - 1:53
Water Disinfection and Purification Practices	1:54 - 2:16
Getting to Zero Liquid Discharge: Evaporators and Vacuum Distillation	2:17- 2:39
Water Storage and Biological Remediation	2:40-2:45
ICF Incentives for Energy Savings	2:45 - 2:53
Q&A	2:53- 3:00



# Today's Experts



Rob Eddy



Jeff Martens



Carlos Salazar



Caleb Hayhoe




# Access Your California Virtual Classroom

## Continue Learning Online

*Free guidance on efficient cultivation*

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Product Type  
ON DEMAND

### California Efficient Yields: Lighting Best Practices for Efficient Controlled Environment Agriculture

**Faculty:** Kendra Branch | Rob Eddy | Casey Rivero  
**Duration:** 1.5 hours  
**Format:** Audio and Video  
**Original Program Date:** Oct 18, 2022  
**Price:** \$0.00 - Non-Members Rate

[More info »](#) [Save for Later](#) [Register](#)



Product Type  
ON DEMAND

### California Efficient Yields: Facility Design & Construction Best Practices for Efficient Greenhouses and Vertical Farms

**Faculty:** Brian Anderson | Rob Eddy | Holden Orler | Luis Trujillo  
**Duration:** 2 hours  
**Format:** Audio and Video  
**Original Program Date:** Sep 20, 2022  
**Price:** \$0.00 - Non-Members Rate

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**All live workshops are available for on-demand viewing!**

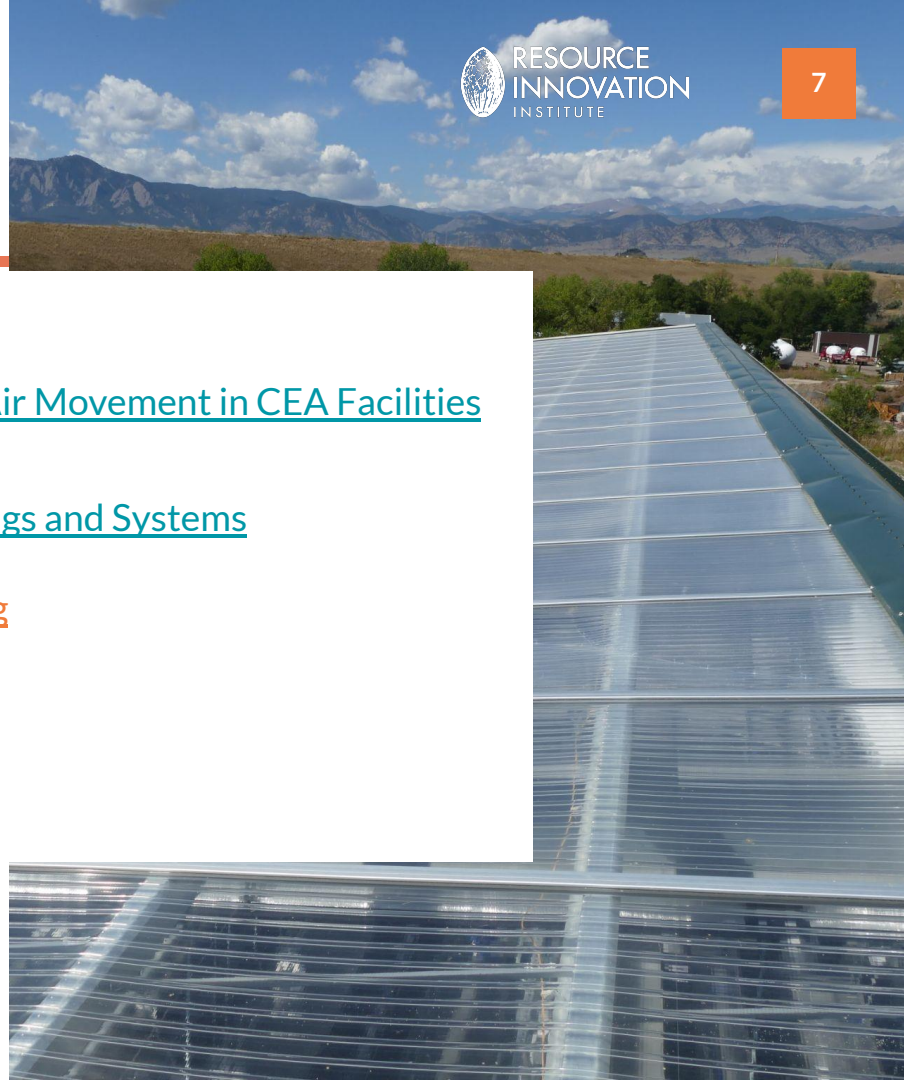
# Register for Upcoming Workshops

## SCE funded Workshops:

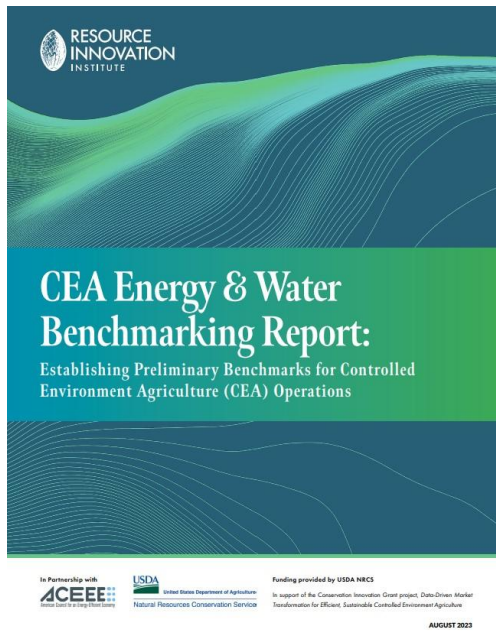
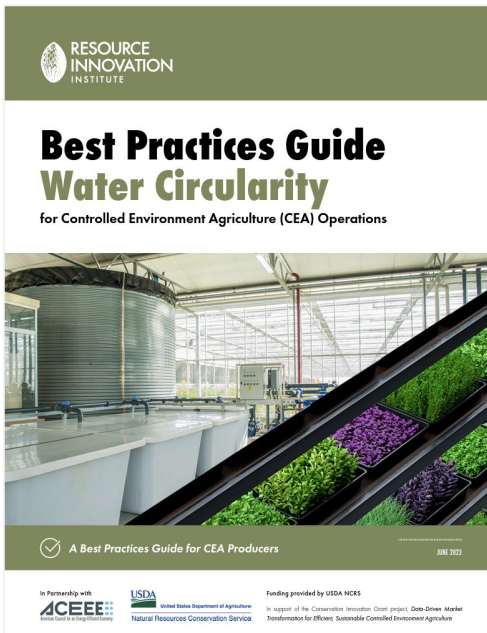
October 12 | [The Critical Role of Building Envelopes and Air Movement in CEA Facilities](#)

October 26 | [Trust But Verify: Commissioning CEA Buildings and Systems](#)

Register and access other free resources on the [RII catalog](#)



# CEA Resources



**Best Practices Guide** Featuring contributions from 15 Working Group member companies

**Benchmarking Report** Featuring annual resource consumption and productivity of twelve producers growing a variety of crops in greenhouse and indoor facilities across the US.

Access the reports for free on the [RII catalog](#)

# Start Collecting Data: Benchmarking

## What data should you collect?

- Energy consumption (all fuel types)
- Water consumption
- Water quality
- Production
- Use controls & automation systems to improve data collection (improve understanding of subsystems)

### Calculated PowerScore

#47974088-21, Indoor, Grantsville, MD, Climate Zone 5A, July 2020 - June 2021

Get Verified

#### Whole Facility

##### Energy

45<sup>th</sup> percentile

Non-Electric Efficiency 188 kBtu / sq ft 30% better 71<sup>st</sup> percentile

Emissions Efficiency 13.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e / sq ft 31% better 100<sup>th</sup> percentile

Lighting Efficiency 2,820 kWh / day 87% better 81<sup>st</sup> percentile

HVAC Efficiency 392 kBtu / sq ft 0% change 3<sup>rd</sup> percentile

##### Water

94<sup>th</sup> percentile

Water Efficiency 0.523 gal / sq ft 8.2% worse 97<sup>th</sup> percentile

##### Waste

68<sup>th</sup> percentile

Waste Efficiency 0.24 lbs / sq ft 0% change 80<sup>th</sup> percentile

##### Year-Over-Year



24.4% better

Select a second PowerScore for comparison snapshot or [add another](#)

#47974085-21, Motown Gro

##### Overall: Middle-of-the-Pack

Your operation's overall performance within the data set of indoor facilities in PowerScore's Ranked Data Set:



45<sup>th</sup>  
percentile

Come back to check your PowerScore regularly to see how your rank changes as more facilities benchmark their performance!

#### Oldies

##### Facility

Canopy Productivity 0.243 kg / sq ft 0% change 50<sup>th</sup> percentile

# POLL ALERT!

What kind of facility are you cultivating in?

Discuss Results





## SECTION 02

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# Reducing Water Use in CEA Operations

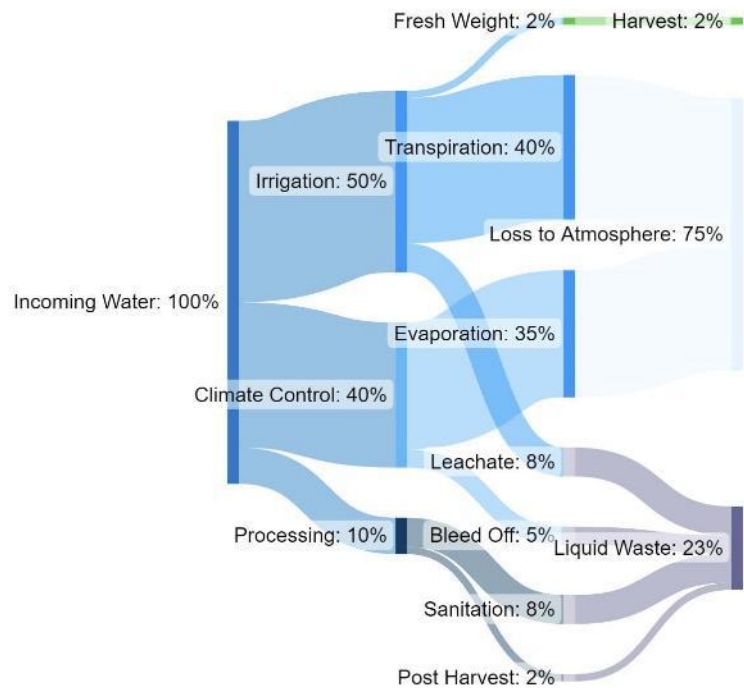
# Knowledge Check!

## About how much water that plants take up stays in the plant?

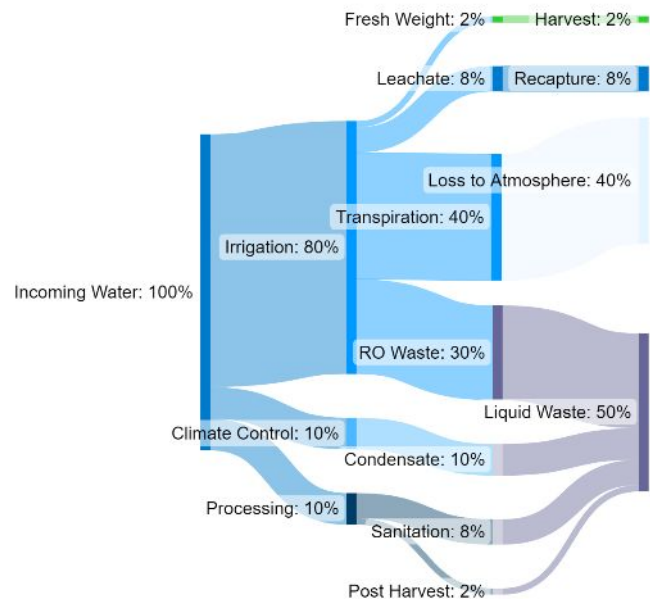
- 2%
- 28%
- 52%
- 98%



# Fate of Water in CEA Operations



Standard Greenhouse



Made with SankeyMATIC

Standard Indoor Farm  
(w/o condensate recapture)

# Water Use Efficiency by Production Method

Production Method	Country	Product water use (L/kg)	Product water use (gal/lb)
Open field, general	Israel, Spain, Turkey	100-300	12-36
Open field, drip irrigation	Israel	60	7
Greenhouse, unheated plastic	Spain	40	5
Glasshouse, unheated	Israel	30	4
Greenhouse, regulated ventilation, plastic	Spain	27	3
Glasshouse, advanced controls, CO <sub>2</sub>	Netherlands	22	3
Glasshouse, advanced controls, CO <sub>2</sub> , closed hydroponic system	Netherlands	15	2
Closed Greenhouse, advanced controls, CO <sub>2</sub> , closed hydroponic system	Netherlands	4	0.5
Greenhouse, evaporative cooling	Mexico	Estimated: 100	Estimated: 12

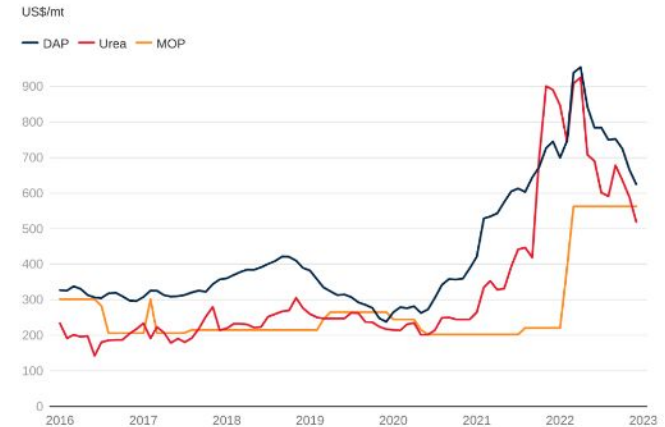
# Economic Rationale For Reducing Water Consumption

Recirculating irrigation water has been shown to reduce water consumption by 20%-40%

Reducing irrigation water has been shown to reduce fertilizer costs by **40%-50%**

CEA producers report ROI in as little as two years due to fertilizer cost reduction

Fertilizer prices



Note: DAP = diammonium phosphate. MOP = muriate of potash. mt = metric ton. Last observation is December 2022.

Source: Bloomberg; World Bank.

# Sources of Water Waste in CEA Operations

Priority Rank	Type of Water Waste	Relevant To All Facilities	Potential High Waste Volume	Release Causes Environmental Harm	Potential Crop Damage	Substitute for RO Water	Potential to Improve ROI on Treatment Costs	Difficult to Remediate
1	Over Irrigation and Leaks	X	X	X	X		X	
2	Irrigation Leachate	X	X	X			X	
3	Pesticide Drench/ Overspray	X		X				X
4	RO Reject Water		X					X
5	Evaporative Cooling Pad Bleed-Off		X					X
6	Condensate		X			X		
7	Washdown Water	X						X
8	Blowdown Water							X

# Reducing Irrigation Waste in Hort Substrate Culture



**Timeclock**  
Window of 2 hours after sunrise  
until 2 hours before sunset

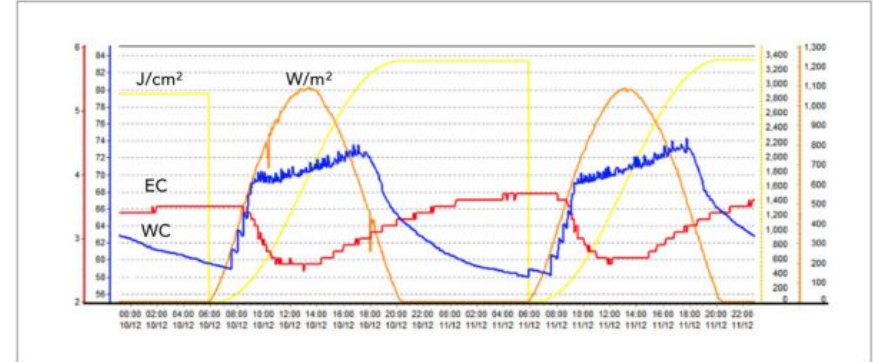
**Accumulated Light**  
Irrigates on light sum since  
previous irrigation

**Maximum Interval**  
Maximum number of minutes  
since last irrigation (cloudy  
weather)

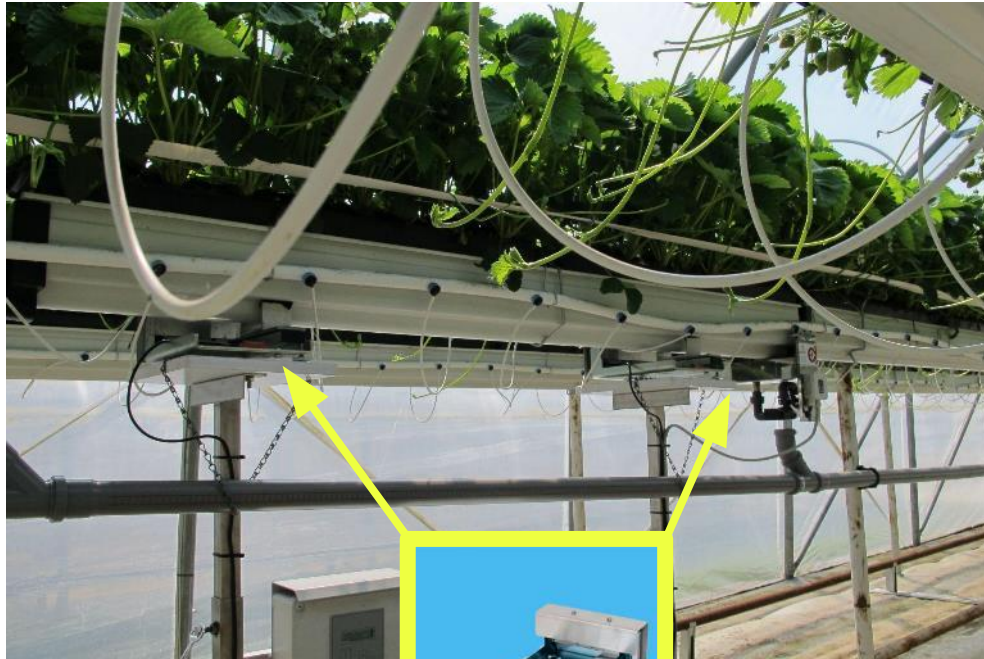
**Crop Aging**  
Accum Light and Max  
Int adjusted by age

## Reducing Irrigation Waste by Smart Programming

Example of layering environmental variables to trigger irrigation



# Reducing Irrigation Waste by Weight Scale Measurement

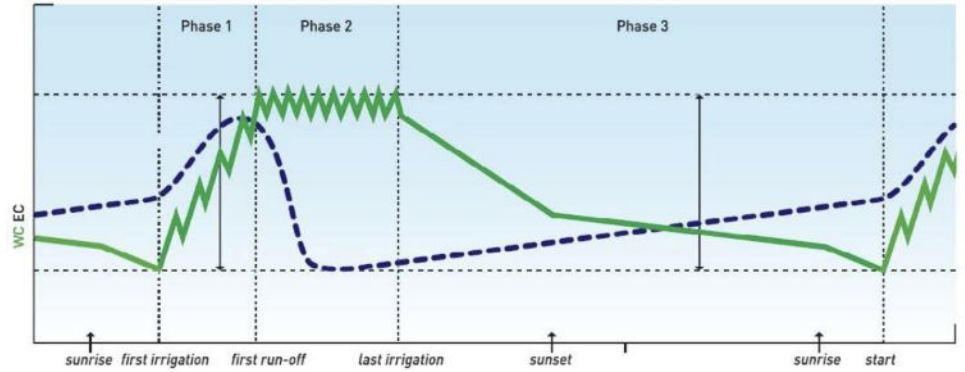


Powerplants Australia



Drain Sensors (volume, EC)

# Reducing Irrigation Waste by Water Content Sensing



Sensor (WC and EC)



# Reducing Irrigation Waste by Using Recirculating Systems



Urban Ag News

Nutrient Film Technique



Raft Culture



Deep Water Culture



Climapod.com

Aeroponics



Plenty

Vertical NFT/Aeroponics

# An Often Overlooked Source of GH Water Waste...

Production Method	Country	Product water use (L/kg)	Product water use (gal/lb)
Open field, general	Israel, Spain, Turkey	100-300	12-36
Open field, drip irrigation	Israel	60	7
Greenhouse, unheated plastic	Spain	40	5
Glasshouse, unheated	Israel	30	4
Greenhouse, regulated ventilation, plastic	Spain	27	3
Glasshouse, advanced controls, CO <sub>2</sub>	Netherlands	22	3
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Greenhouse, evaporative cooling	Mexico	Estimated: 100	Estimated: 12



Modified from Nederhoff, Elly & Stanghellini, Cecilia. (2010).

## Reducing Climate Control Water Waste



# Knowledge Check!

About how much water that plants take up stays in the plant?

## Discuss Results





SECTION 03

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# Water Quality in CEA Operations

# POLL ALERT!

How do you measure water usage?

Check all that apply:

- No metering
- One meter - incoming water
- More than one meter
- Tracked by irrigation controller
- Tracked by climate control computer



# Topics

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- Water Quality
- Reverse Osmosis
- Filtration
- Disinfection
- Design considerations



# Water Quality RII Best Practice Guide

Characteristic	Desired Level	Characteristic	Desired Level	Characteristic	Desired Level
Soluble Salts (EC)	0.0-0.5 dS/m	Nitrogen {N} -Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> )	<5 ppm	Iron (Fe)	<1 ppm
		Ammonium (NH <sub>4</sub> )	<5 ppm		
pH	5.4-6.8	Phosphorus (P)	<1 ppm	Boron (B)	<0.3 ppm
Alkalinity (Carbonate, CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	40-65 ppm	Potassium (K)	<10 ppm	Copper (Cu)	<0.1 ppm
(Bicarbonate, HCO <sub>3</sub> )	40-65 ppm				
Hardness (CaCO <sub>3</sub> equivalent)	<100 ppm	Calcium (Ca)	<60 ppm	Zinc (Zn)	<0.2 ppm
Sodium (Na)	<50 ppm	Sulfates (SO <sub>4</sub> )	<30 ppm	Aluminum (Al)	<2 ppm
Chloride (Cl)	<71 ppm	Magnesium (Mg)	<5 ppm	Chloride (Cl)	<2 ppm
Sodium Adsorption Ratio	<4	Manganese (Mn)	<1 ppm	Fluoride (F)	<1 ppm

WaterQual at [www.cleanwater3.org/wqi.asp](http://www.cleanwater3.org/wqi.asp).



Table 1. Desirable characteristics of high-quality irrigation water.<sup>6</sup>

# Water Quality - Results from well in Central Coast, CA

Ions	Well	Guidelines	Units
pH	7.4	5.4-6.8	-
Alkalinity "M" as $\text{CaCO}_3$	206	40-65	ppm
Fluoride as F	0.2	<1	ppm
Nitrate as $\text{NO}_3$	8.1	<5	ppm
Sulfate as $\text{SO}_4$	385	<30	ppm
Chloride as Cl	36.8	<71	ppm
Specific Conductance at 25°C	1210	760	$\mu\text{mhos}$
Aluminum Total as Al	<0.01	<2	ppm
Calcium Total as Ca	113	<60	ppm
Iron Total as Fe	<0.01	<1	ppm
Hardness Total as $\text{CaCO}_3$	505	<100	ppm
Potassium as K	3	<10	ppm
Magnesium Total as Mg	53.9	<5	ppm
Manganese Total as Mn	<0.005	<1	ppm
Sodium as Na	60.2	<50	ppm
Phosphorus total as P	<0.05	<1	ppm
Silica Total as $\text{SiO}_2$	38.2		ppm
Zinc Total as Zn	<0.005	<0.2	ppm

# Water Quality

Ions	Well	Guidelines	Units
pH	7.4	5.4-6.8	-
Alkalinity "M" as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	206	40-65	ppm
Fluoride as F	0.2	<1	ppm
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Hardness Total as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	505	<100	ppm
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Magnesium Total as Mg	53.9	<5	ppm
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Phosphorus total as P	<0.05	<1	ppm
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Zinc Total as Zn	<0.005	<0.2	ppm

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WaterQual Es

This tool interprets the quality of a water source for use in irrigation of plants in greenhouses and nurseries.

Enter data for quality parameters you are interested in (you do not need to enter data for all the parameters) and click the 'Interpret' button.

**Total ions and alkalinity**

pH  no units required

Electrical conductivity (EC)  µS/cm

Hardness (ppm Ca+Mg)  mg/L

Alkalinity  ppm CaCO<sub>3</sub>

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)  mg/L

Sodium adsorption ratio (SAR)  no units required

**Nutrients and ions**

Nitrogen (N) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>	Copper (Cu) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>
Phosphorus (P) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm P</small>	Boron (B) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>
Potassium (K) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>	Molybdenum (Mo) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>
Calcium (Ca) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>	Silicon (Si) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>
Magnesium (Mg) <input type="text" value="53.9"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>	Nickel (Ni) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>
Sulfate-sulfur (S) <input type="text" value="385"/> <small>mg/L or ppm S</small>	Sodium (Na) <input type="text" value="60.2"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>
Iron (Fe) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>	Chloride (Cl) <input type="text" value="84"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>
Manganese (Mn) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>	Fluoride (F) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>
Zinc (Zn) <input type="text"/> <small>mg/L or ppm</small>	

**Physical water quality**

Total suspended solids (TSS)  mg/L

Turbidity  NTU

# Water Quality

Ions	Well	Guidelines	Units
pH	7.4	5.4-6.8	-
Alkalinity "M" as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	206	40-65	ppm
Fluoride as F	0.2	<1	ppm
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub>	8.1	<5	ppm
Sulfate as SO <sub>4</sub>	385	<30	ppm
Chloride as Cl	36.8	<71	ppm
Specific Conductance at 25°C	1210	760	µmhos
Aluminum Total as Al	<0.01	<2	ppm
Calcium Total as Ca	113	<60	ppm
Iron Total as Fe	<0.01	<1	ppm
Hardness Total as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	505	<100	ppm
Potassium as K	3	<10	ppm
Magnesium Total as Mg	53.9	<5	ppm
Manganese Total as Mn	<0.005	<1	ppm
Sodium as Na	60.2	<50	ppm
Phosphorus total as P	<0.05	<1	ppm
Silica Total as SiO <sub>2</sub>	38.2		ppm
Zinc Total as Zn	<0.005	<0.2	ppm

Measurement	Test value	Result	Explanation of result
pH	7.4	High (>7)	Interpreting the pH and alkalinity results together pH and alkalinity levels this high means some pH adjustment (addition of acid) will be required in the spray tank with certain agrichemicals - check the pesticide label. Acidification is needed for hydroponic growers to lower pH to 6. For irrigation of containerized plants, injection of acid is recommended to reduce alkalinity and avoid an increase in substrate-pH over time. You may also need to include ammonium or urea nitrogen at 40% or above of total N in fertilizer to help avoid a rise in pH when using hydroponics or a container substrate.
Alkalinity	206 ppm CaCO <sub>3</sub>	High (>150.01 ppm CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	
Electrical conductivity (EC)	1210 µS/cm	Moderate (>760 µS/cm)	A moderate to high level of dissolved ions. Likely to lead to salt accumulation in the substrate or recirculating solution, resulting in hard stunted growth and root damage. During mist propagation or overhead watering, may lead to salt burn on foliage. Manage with reverse osmosis, blending with a more pure water source such as rain water, leaching during irrigation, or periodic replacement of recirculating solution. Further water testing is needed to determine which ions are present, including fertilizer nutrients, alkalinity, chloride, or sodium.
Hardness (ppm Ca+Mg)	505 mg/L	High (>300.1 mg/L)	Ca and Mg levels this high are likely to produce residues on plant leaves, reduce efficacy and solubility of agrichemicals, clog irrigation equipment, and cause scaling and buildup on greenhouse boilers. Treatments such as reverse osmosis and acid injection are recommended.

# Water Quality - Results from Los Angeles, CA Municipality

Ions	Well	LA Muni	Guidelines	Units
pH	7.4	8	5.4-6.8	-
Alkalinity "M" as $\text{CaCO}_3$	206	120	40-65	ppm
Fluoride as F	0.2	1.3	<1	ppm
Nitrate as $\text{NO}_3$	8.1	<10.0	<5	ppm
Sulfate as $\text{SO}_4$	385	218	<30	ppm
Chloride as Cl	36.8	85.2	<71	ppm
Specific Conductance at 25°C	1210	1040	760	$\mu\text{mhos}$
Aluminum Total as Al	<0.01	0.18	<2	ppm
Calcium Total as Ca	113	65.8	<60	ppm
Iron Total as Fe	<0.01	<0.01	<1	ppm
Hardness Total as $\text{CaCO}_3$	505	273	<100	ppm
Potassium as K	3	4.5	<10	ppm
Magnesium Total as Mg	53.9	26.1	<5	ppm
Manganese Total as Mn	<0.005	<0.005	<1	ppm
Sodium as Na	60.2	93.4	<50	ppm
Phosphorus total as P	<0.05	<0.05	<1	ppm
Silica Total as $\text{SiO}_2$	38.2	7.15		ppm
Zinc Total as Zn	<0.005	0.106	<0.2	ppm

Table 7. Comparison of water attributes of high pH, alkalinity and hardness.

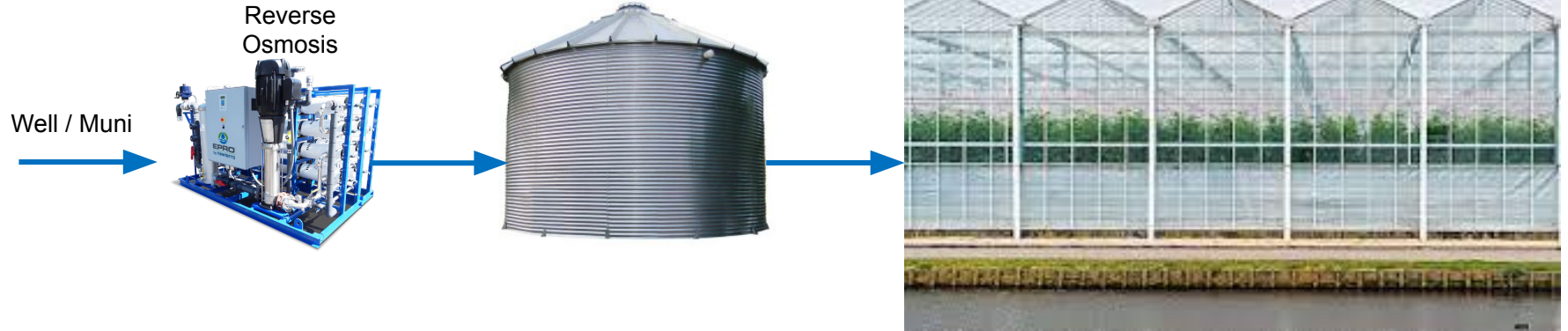
	High pH	Alkalinity	Hardness
Definition	Solutions with a pH value >7. A basic solution, as opposed to acidic.	Ability of the water to resist pH changes that occur due to acids. "Buffering capacity."	Amount of Ca and Mg in the water
Cause	Higher concentrations of $\text{OH}^-$ ions than $\text{H}^+$ ions	Carbonates from limestone or dolomite bedrock	Calcium and magnesium from limestone or dolomite bedrock
Units of Measure	Expressed in logarithmic pH units	mEq/L, mg/L or ppm (meaning mg/L or ppm of calcium carbonate or bicarbonate equivalents)	mg/l or ppm
Impact on CEA operations	Minimal impact in container substrates if alkalinity and hardness are within acceptable range, but in hydroponics directly affects micronutrient solubility. Also affects activity of many agrichemicals	Increases pH of root substrate over time as carbonates accumulate, resulting in nutrient deficiencies	Scale deposits on plants and irrigation equipment. Clogged nozzles lead to plant stress.
Treatment	No treatment necessary if hardness and alkalinity within acceptable range for substrate production. High pH is adjusted with acid in hydroponic production.	Use of acidic fertilizer or acid injection into irrigation water. Reverse osmosis, deionization	Softening with KCl salts (not NaCl), reverse osmosis, deionization

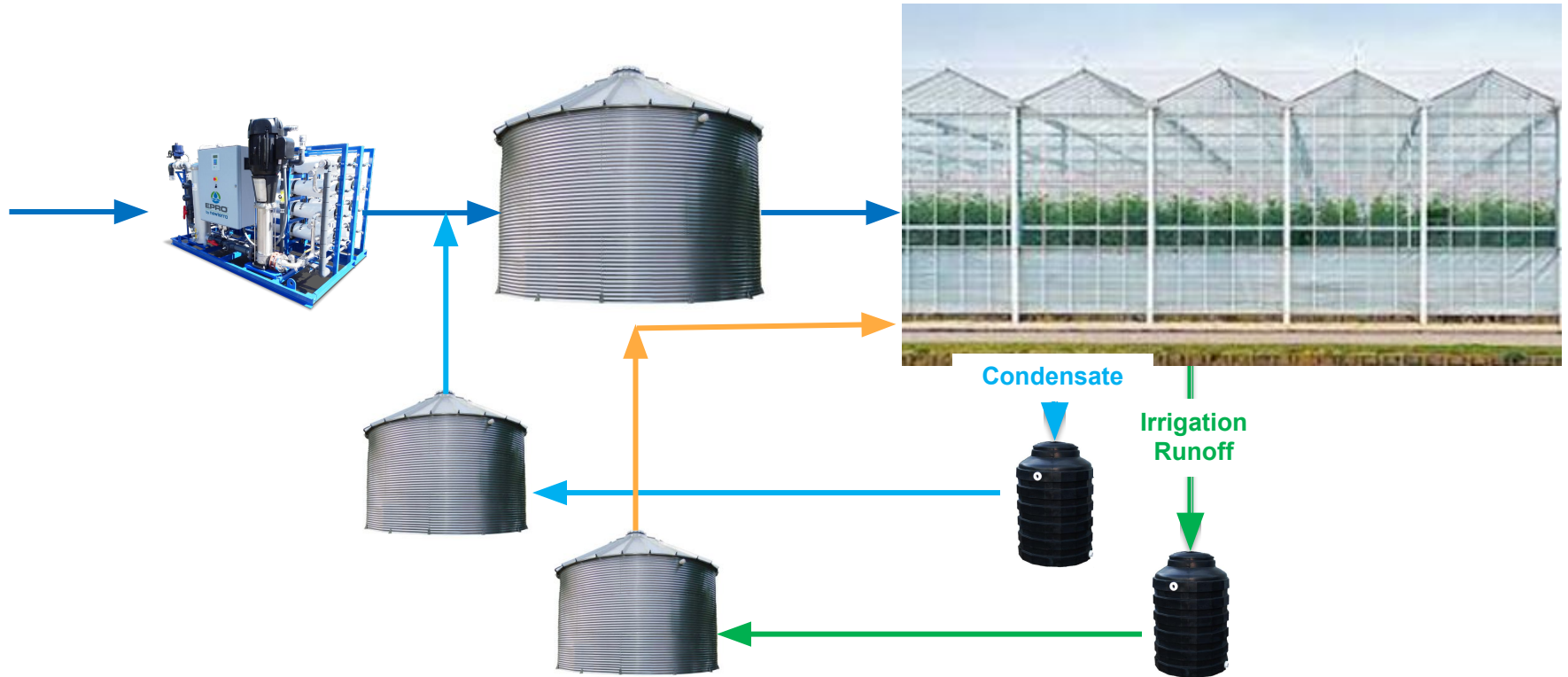
# Water Quality - Results from Irrigation Runoff

Ions	Well	LA Muni	Irrigation	Guidelines	Units
pH	7.4	8	5.2	5.4-6.8	-
Alkalinity "M" as $\text{CaCO}_3$	206	120	4.7	40-65	ppm
Fluoride as F	0.2	1.3	0.1	<1	ppm
Nitrate as $\text{NO}_3$	8.1	<10.0	665	<5	ppm
Sulfate as $\text{SO}_4$	385	218	120	<30	ppm
Chloride as Cl	36.8	85.2	<0.5	<71	ppm
Specific Conductance at 25°C	1210	1040	1970	760	$\mu\text{mhos}$
Aluminum Total as Al	<0.01	0.18	<0.01	<2	ppm
Calcium Total as Ca	113	65.8	119	<60	ppm
Iron Total as Fe	<0.01	<0.01	1.63	<1	ppm
Hardness Total as $\text{CaCO}_3$	505	273	418	<100	ppm
Potassium as K	3	4.5	268	<10	ppm
Magnesium Total as Mg	53.9	26.1	29.6	<5	ppm
Manganese Total as Mn	<0.005	<0.005	0.222	<1	ppm
Sodium as Na	60.2	93.4	9	<50	ppm
Phosphorus total as P	<0.05	<0.05	33	<1	ppm
Silica Total as $\text{SiO}_2$	38.2	7.15	0.53		ppm
Zinc Total as Zn	<0.005	0.106	0.291	<0.2	ppm

# Water Quality - Results from Condensate

Ions	Well	LA Muni	Irrigation	Condensate	Guidelines	Units
pH	7.4	8	5.2	6.5	5.4-6.8	-
Alkalinity "M" as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	206	120	4.7	27.3	40-65	ppm
Fluoride as F	0.2	1.3	0.1	0.3	<1	ppm
Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub>	8.1	<10.0	665	3.8	<5	ppm
Sulfate as SO <sub>4</sub>	385	218	120	7.9	<30	ppm
Chloride as Cl	36.8	85.2	<0.5	22.7	<71	ppm
Specific Conductance at 25°C	1210	1040	1970	147	760	µmhos
Aluminum Total as Al	<0.01	0.18	<0.01	0.13	<2	ppm
Calcium Total as Ca	113	65.8	119	13.5	<60	ppm
Iron Total as Fe	<0.01	<0.01	1.63	0.02	<1	ppm
Hardness Total as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	505	273	418	49	<100	ppm
Potassium as K	3	4.5	268	1.1	<10	ppm
Magnesium Total as Mg	53.9	26.1	29.6	3.65	<5	ppm
Manganese Total as Mn	<0.005	<0.005	0.222	<0.005	<1	ppm
Sodium as Na	60.2	93.4	9	9.3	<50	ppm
Phosphorus total as P	<0.05	<0.05	33	<0.05	<1	ppm
Silica Total as SiO <sub>2</sub>	38.2	7.15	0.53	2.55		ppm
Zinc Total as Zn	<0.005	0.106	0.291	0.066	<0.2	ppm







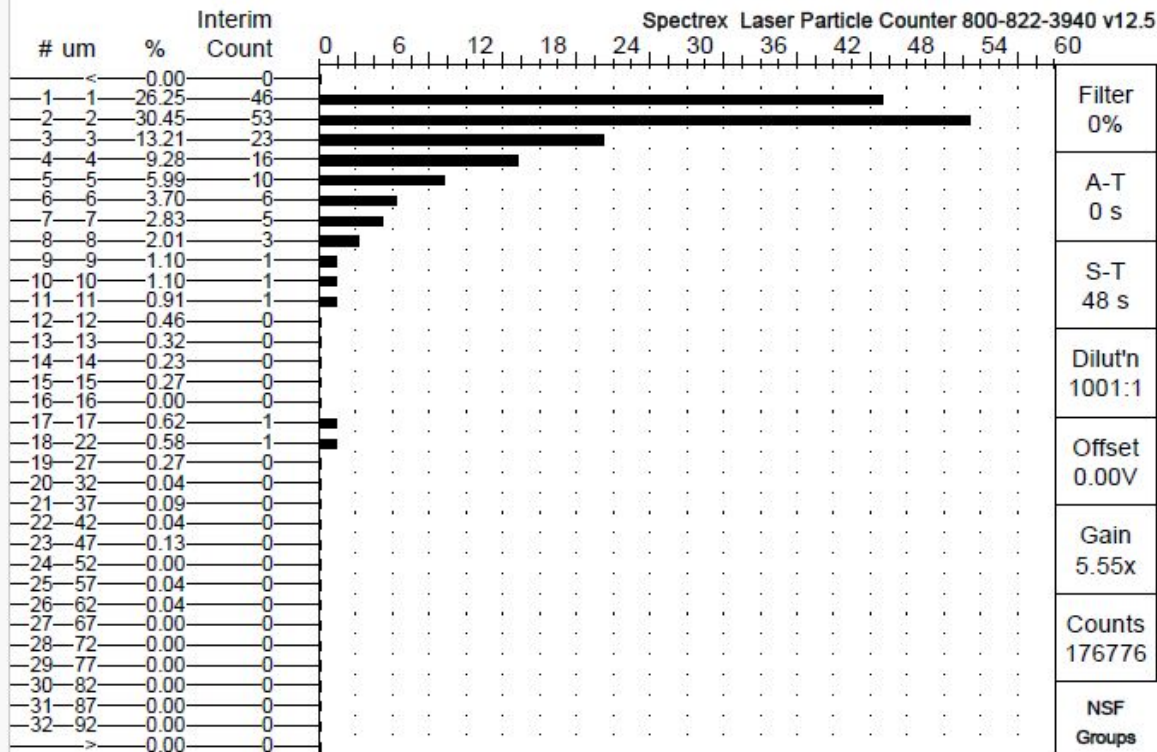
## Filtration fundamentals

Technologies  
Particle size  
analysis



## Disinfection

Dosage  
Mixing  
Location



Bin	Size	Total counts /cc	Counts percent	Surface area percent	Volume percent	Mass/bin ppm
---	< 1	0.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.0000
1	1-5	139,998.19	79.20%	13.77%	3.18%	0.8536
2	5-15	32,978.79	18.66%	33.96%	17.54%	4.7101
3	15-30	3,088.87	1.75%	23.81%	24.63%	6.6161
4	30-50	552.34	0.31%	17.98%	31.21%	8.3833
	50-100	157.81	0.09%	10.49%	23.43%	6.2936



Algae, plant  
material, soils,  
nutrients build  
up



Bacteria and  
pathogens  
begin to grow  
in a protected  
environment



Outbreak  
occurs



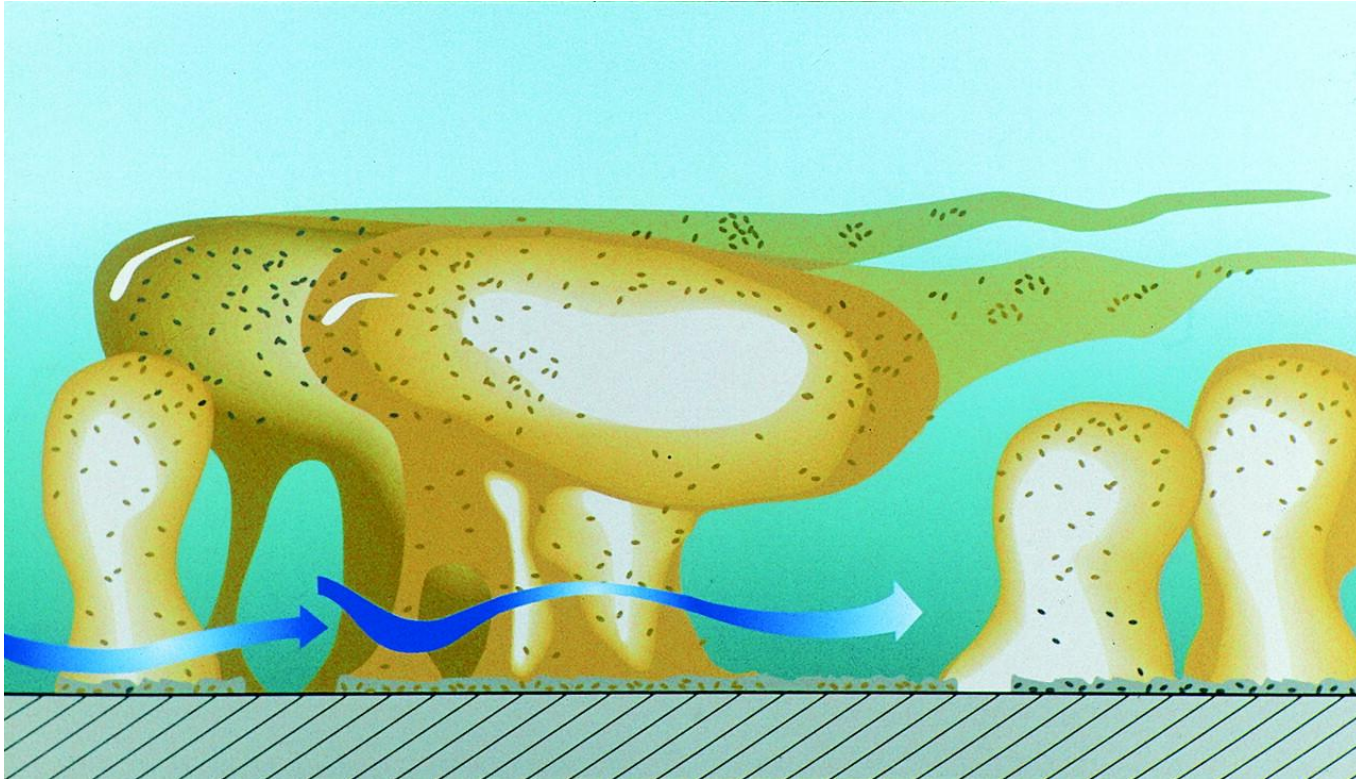
Plant yield  
deteriorates



Fouling  
increases



# Bacteria growth on a surface



# Advantage of ozone

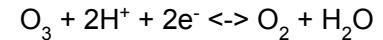
Strong  
oxidant

Doesn't  
build up  
residual

Increases  
O<sub>2</sub> levels

Oxidizer	ORP (Volts)
Ozone	2.08
Hydrogen Peroxide	2.02
Chlorine Dioxide	0.95

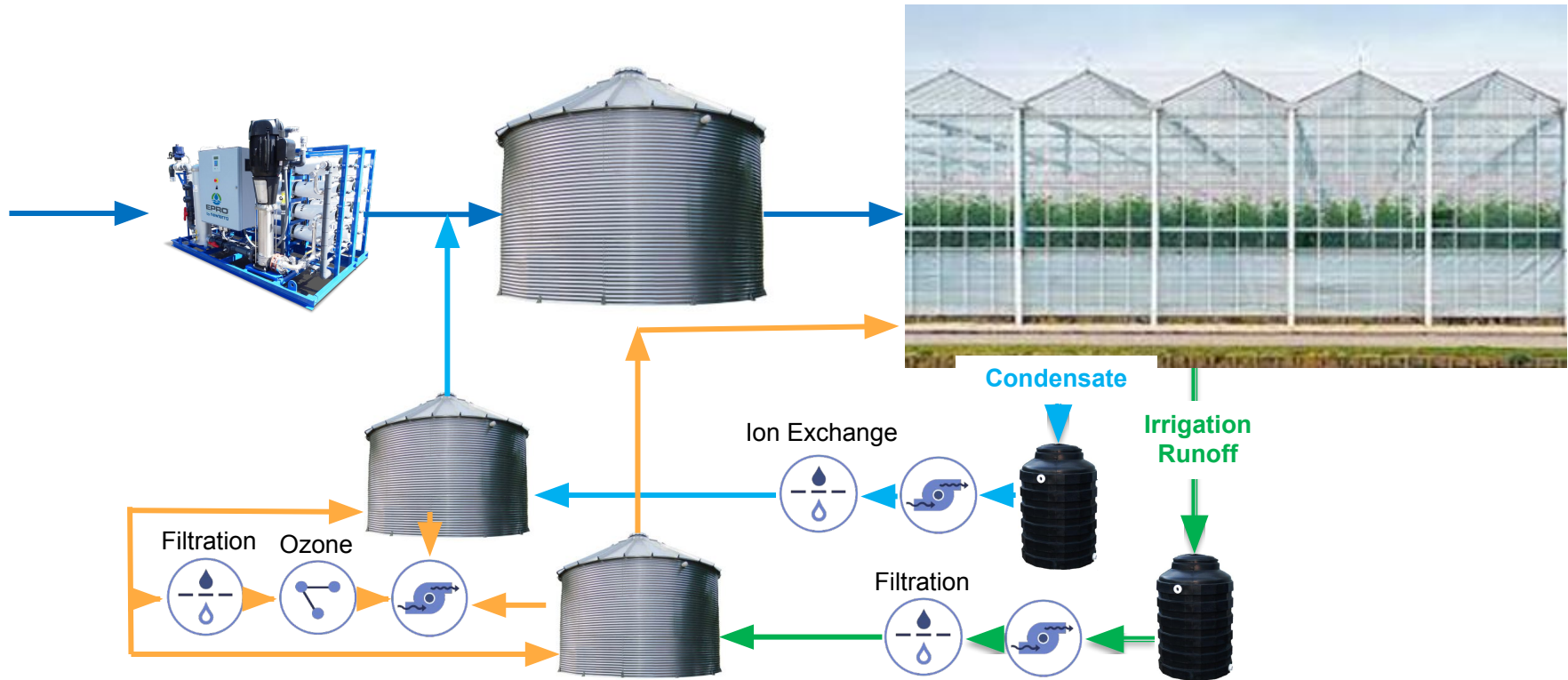
15 Minute Half Life (@ pH 7)  
No stabilizer



Chemical Water Quality Treatment Systems														
Technology	Notes	Pre Treatment Required	Treatment Range						Reaction Time	Residual Effect*	Reject Water Waste?	Footprint	Costs	
			Solids / organic material	Pathogens	Nutrients		Agri - chemicals	Controls Biofilm					Capital	Operating
					N	P								
Chlorine	Caution with chloramine formation when using in fertigation solutions	Pre-filtration	✓	✓			Some	✓	Minutes	++		Small	\$ - \$\$	\$
Chlorine Dioxide		Pre-filtration	✓	✓			Some	✓	Minutes	++		Small	\$ - \$\$\$	\$\$ - \$\$\$
Peroxyacetic acid	(PAA) is a combination of acetic acid and hydrogen peroxide	Pre-filtration	✓	✓			Some	✓	Minutes	++		Small	\$	\$\$ - \$\$\$
ECA	Chlorine 2-10 ppm may damage lettuce	Softening	✓	✓				✓	Minutes	+		Small		
Ozone		Pre-filtration	✓	✓			Some	✓	Minutes	+		Medium	\$\$\$	\$
Copper Ionization		Pre-filtration		✓					Hours	++		Small	\$\$\$	\$
Peroxyacetic acid + UV	Synergistic Effect	Pre-filtration	✓	✓			Some	✓	Minutes	++		Medium	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$
Peroxyacetic acid + Ozone	Synergistic Effect	Pre-filtration	✓	✓			Some	✓	MInutes	++		Medium	\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$
Ozone + UV	Synergistic Effect	Pre-filtration	✓	✓			Some	✓	Minutes	+		Medium	\$\$\$\$\$	\$\$
Deionization	Higher purity than typically needed	Pre-filtration and Reverse Osmosis to reduce cost	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Minutes		+++	Medium	\$\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$

\*All technologies other than point treatments such as membrane filtration or UV have potential for phytotoxicity at high doses. Make sure to follow label and manufacturer recommendations on dose, monitoring, and maintenance.

77 Modified from West, J., Huber, A., & Carlow, C. (2018). *Water Treatment Guide for Greenhouses & Nurseries, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*, and Fisher, P. (2020, February 18). *Managing Water Quality and Biofilm for Indoor Production*. Indoor Ag Science Cafe (episode 16). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7wWVLEdE>



# POLL ALERT!

How do you measure water usage?  
Check all that apply:

Discuss Results



The background image shows a vast industrial interior, likely a manufacturing or processing plant. The ceiling is high and features a complex network of white structural beams. Long, parallel rows of industrial heaters, which appear to be glowing with a pinkish-red light, are suspended from the ceiling. A large, white, circular industrial fan is visible in the center of the frame. The overall atmosphere is industrial and brightly lit.

## SECTION 04

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# Zero Liquid Discharge in CEA Operations

## KNOWLEDGE CHECK!

Filtration can improve the efficiency of many other water treatments

- True
- False



# Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)

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- What is it?
- History
- Why is it required/necessary
- How to achieve ZLD
- Pitfalls / Drawbacks

# What is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)?

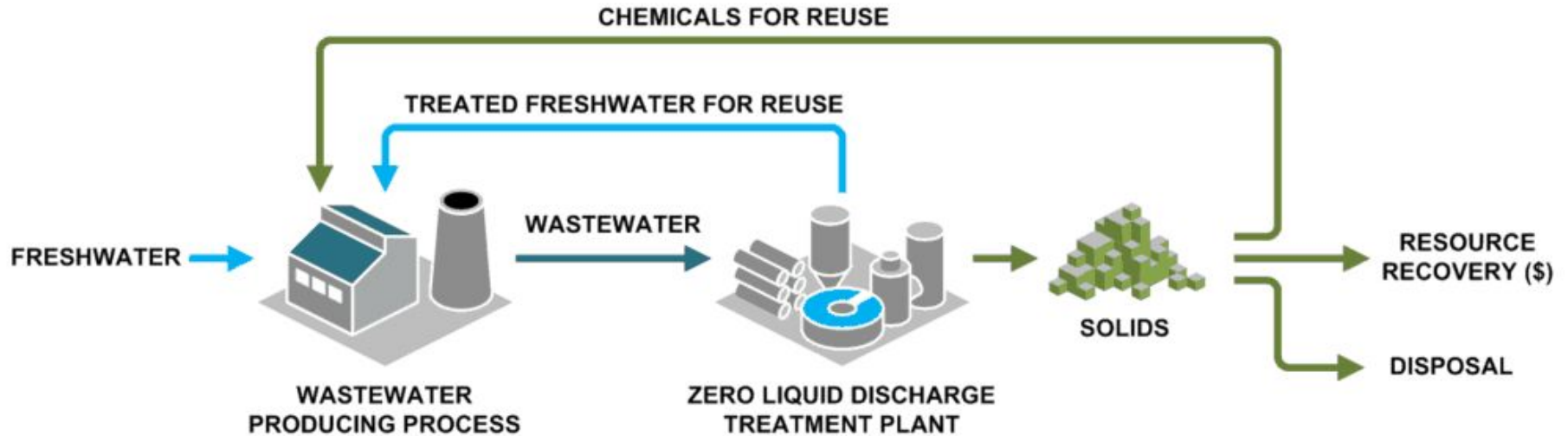
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# What is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)?



# What is Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)?



# History of ZLD

- Developed in USA for power plants
- Increased salinity of Colorado river in the 1970's created need for ZLD
- Major markets include USA, China, and India
- Growth in electronics, fertilizer, mining, and chemical industries



# Why is ZLD required/necessary?

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- Water Scarcity
- Environmental impact
- Growth of CEA
- Upcoming regulation
- Economic (in certain situations)
- Marketing

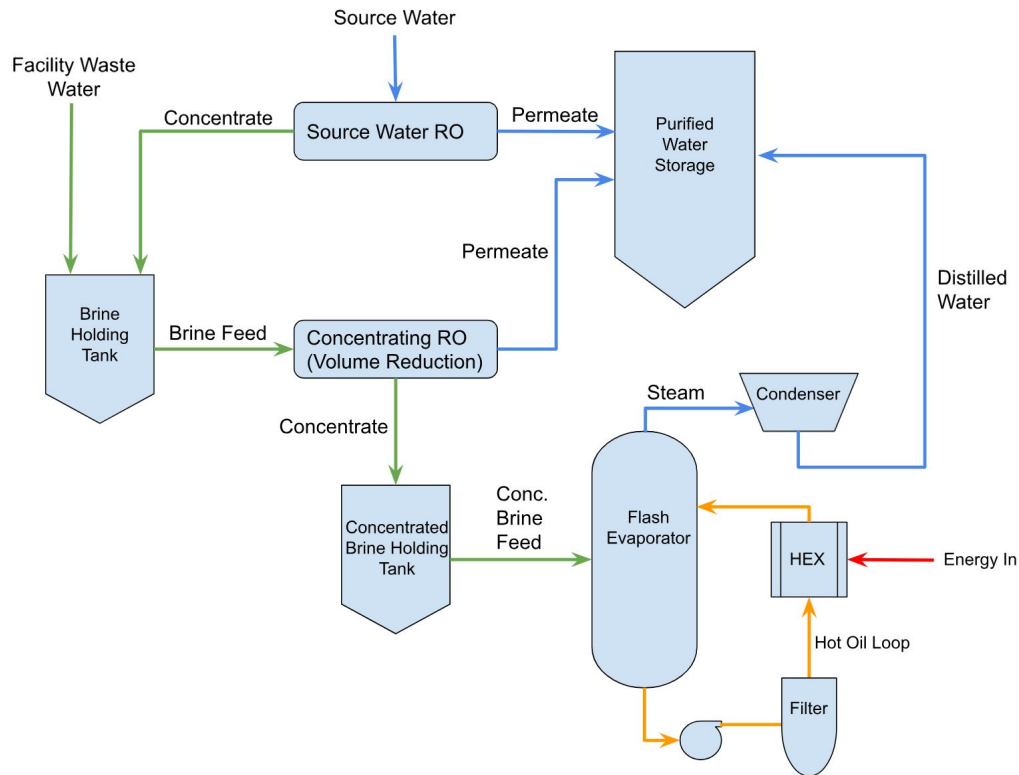


# How to achieve ZLD?

- New CEA facilities
- Existing CEA facilities
- Phased approach
- Technologies deployed

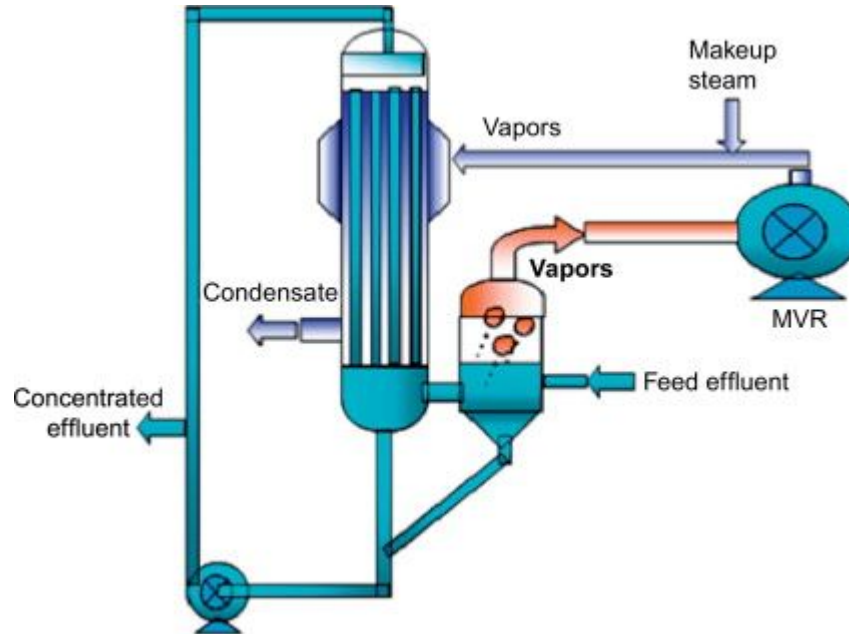


# How to achieve ZLD? (Continued)



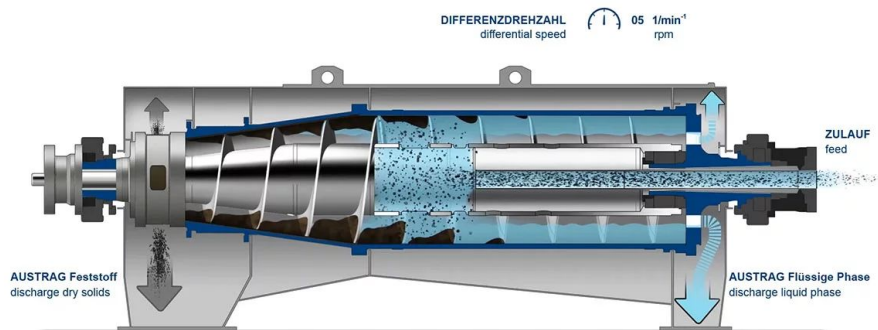
# How to achieve ZLD? (Continued)

## MVR Process

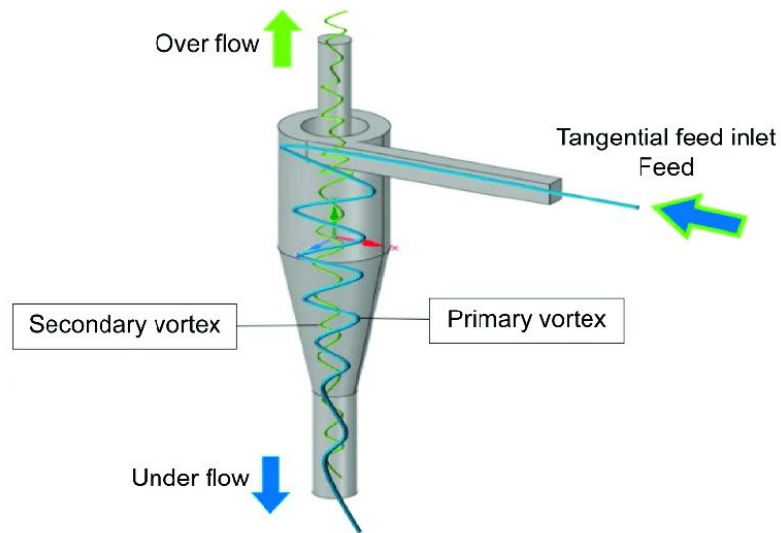


# How to achieve ZLD? (Continued)

## Solids Removal Final Stage



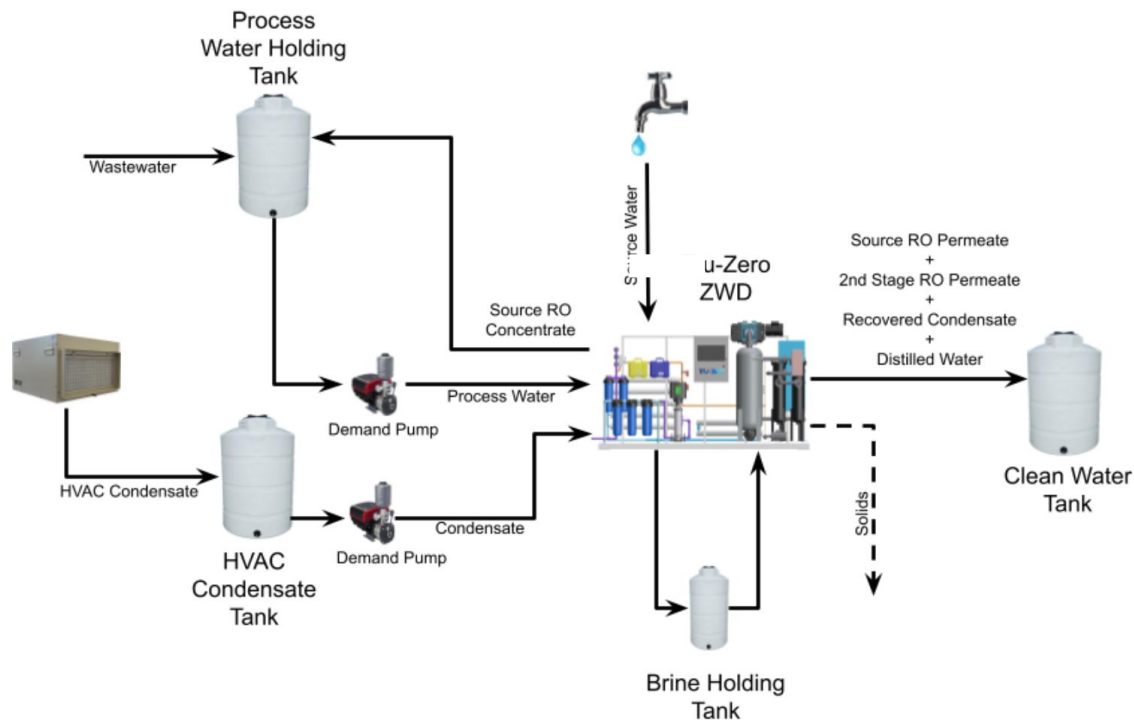
Decanter Centrifuge



Hydrocyclone

# How to achieve ZLD? (Continued)

## Process Flow Diagram of a ZLD system for CEA



# Pitfalls / Drawbacks to ZLD

- Increased costs
- Design differences from other water treatment systems
- Complex streams of water
- Increased use of chemicals
- Energy consumption
- Solid waste disposal



## KNOWLEDGE CHECK!

Filtration can improve the efficiency of many other water treatments

## Discuss Results



RESOURCE  
INNOVATION  
INSTITUTE

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**SECTION 05**

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# **Water Storage and Bioremediation**

# POLL ALERT!

I have downloaded an RII Best Practices Guide in the last year

- YES
- NO
- NOT SURE



# Storing Water for Reuse



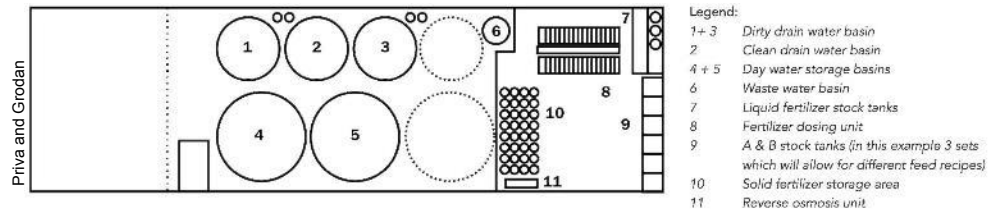
Silver Bullet

Priva and Grodan

Silver Bullet



Silver Bullet



# Biological Remediation Strategies

Biological Water Quality Treatment Systems														
Technology	Notes	Pre Treatment Required	Treatment Range						Reaction Time	Residual Effect	Reject Water Waste?	Footprint	Costs	
			Solids / organic material	Pathogens	Nutrients		Agri - chemicals	Controls Biofilm					Capital	Operating
					N	P								
Slow Sand Filters			✓	✓			Possible					Medium	\$\$	\$
Constructed Wetlands			✓	Variable	✓	Variable	✓					Small - Large	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$
Floating Treatment Wetlands	Can be applied to existing stormwater ponds		✓	Variable	✓	Variable	✓					Small - Large	\$-\$\$	\$
Woodchip Bioreactors			✓	✓	✓	Some	Likely					Medium	\$-\$\$	\$
Hybrid Treatment Systems			✓	✓	✓	✓	Likely					Medium	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$

# Biological Remediation Strategies - Constructed Wetlands



Bottom of wetland cells should be flat to permit even water drainage and flow for future wetland remediation efficiency.



Soils in dike and bottom of cells must have small particle size and compact readily to restrict water penetration.



White et al. (2011)

## Nursery Case Study

Monrovia® - Cairo, GA

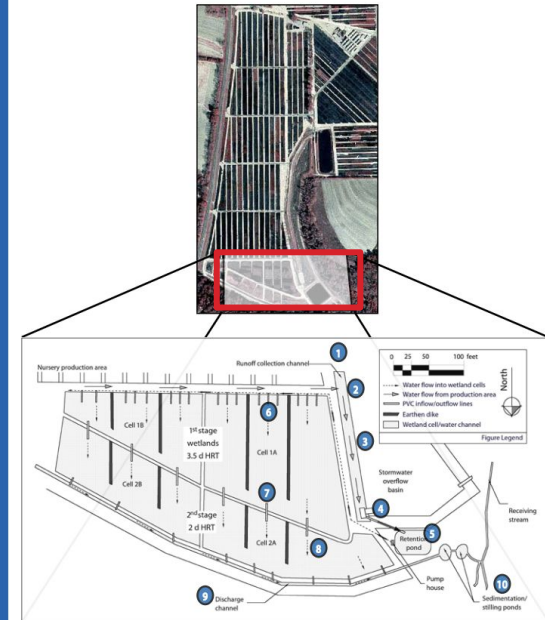
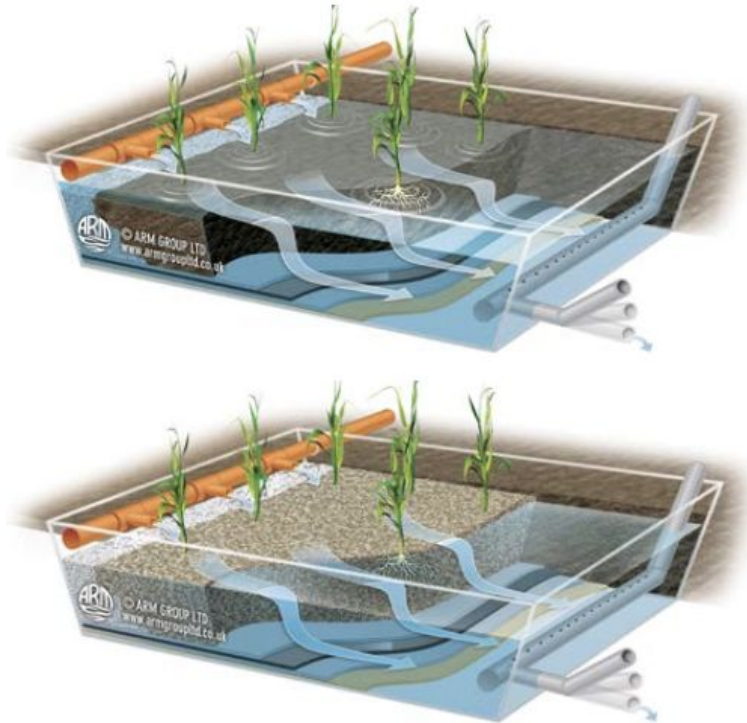


Figure 2. 9.3-acre surface-flow constructed wetland at Monrovia® Growers Nursery. Numbers correspond to the various stages pictured and described on p. 5.

# Biological Remediation Strategies - Constructed Wetlands

65

Figure 28. Surface flow constructed wetland (top) and Sub-surface flow constructed wetland.



**High removal efficiency:**

**50%-99% for nitrogen**

**25%-98% for phosphorus**

**84%-97% for pesticides**

(organochlorines, strobilurin/strobin, organophosphates, and pyrethroids)

**Heavy metals from plumbing and HVAC, copper (60%) and zinc (86%), along with lead, cadmium, aluminum, and manganese**

**Relative to the other water treatment technologies, these are *high removal rates* for these key agricultural pollutants.**

Sources:

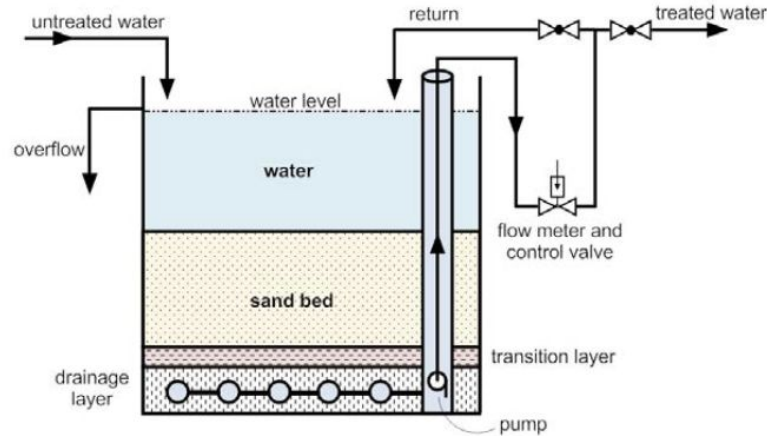
White et al. (2011).

Gill, L., Ring, P., Casey, B. M., Higgins, N. M., & Johnston, P. A. (2017).

Cheng, S., Grosse, W., Karrenbrock, F., & Thoennessen, M. (2002).

# Biological Remediation Strategies - Slow Sand Filters

66



Oki, 2017



Netafim

Can be “containerized” for possible use in small spaces and even indoors

# Biological Remediation Strategies - Floating Wetlands

Beeman, 2022 and Hurlev, 2022



Figure 29. Constructed wetland root system (left) and top growth.

In a study comparing removal rates of two leading brands' efficacy in treating agricultural wastewater, removal rates of 25%-40% for Total Nitrogen and 4%-48% for Total Phosphorus were achieved.

Can be retrofitted to existing holding ponds

# POLL ALERT!

I have downloaded an RII Best Practices Guide in the last year

Discuss Results





SECTION 06

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# Incentives Overview



# Measure and Incentive Details Deemed



Measure	Measure Sizes	Incentive
<b>Glycol Pump VFD</b>	3hp – 25hp	\$1,500 - \$5,000 / unit
<b>High-Low Bay LED Horticultural Lighting</b>	4500 lumens – 65,900 lumens 130 LPW – 150+ LPW	\$30 - \$55 / unit
<b>Efficient Ag Ventilation Fans</b>	24 – 48 inch VSD	\$200 / unit \$195 / hp for VSD
<b>Dust Collection Fan VSD</b>	VFD on 10hp – 150hp motor	\$2,000 - \$15,000 / unit
<b>VFD on Ag Well and Booster Pumps</b>	<75 hp – 600hp	\$75 - \$200 / hp
<b>Enhanced VFD on Ag Well and Booster Pumps</b>	<75 hp – 600hp	\$150 / hp

# Measure and Incentive Details Custom + NMEC\*



Measure	Measure Examples	Incentive per kWh	Incentive per kW
<b>Lighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lighting controls</li><li>• Horticulture lighting</li><li>• Exterior LED lighting</li><li>• Interior high/low bay LED lighting</li></ul>	\$0.15	\$150
<b>HVAC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Horticulture HVAC system improvement</li><li>• HVAC controls and VFDs</li><li>• HVAC retro-commissioning</li><li>• Chiller (HVAC) compressor – VFD</li><li>• Ventilation fan – VFD</li><li>• Efficient dehumidification system</li></ul>		
<b>Refrigeration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refrigeration system insulation</li><li>• Refrigeration system controls and VFDs</li><li>• Condenser fan – VFD</li><li>• Chiller (process) compressor – VFD</li><li>• Evaporator coil fan – VFD</li><li>• Efficient refrigeration condensing unit</li><li>• Oversized air-cooled condenser</li><li>• Efficient refrigeration compressors</li></ul>		

# Measure and Incentive Details Custom + NMEC\*



Measure	Measure Examples	Incentive per kWh	Incentive per kW
<b>Irrigation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sprinkler/flood to drip irrigation</li> <li>• Distribution uniformity improvement</li> <li>• Irrigation scheduling</li> </ul>	\$0.15	\$150
<b>Compressed air</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compressed air controls</li> <li>• Compressed air system optimization</li> </ul>		
<b>Pumping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pump controls and VFDs</li> <li>• Pumping system retro-commissioning</li> <li>• Agricultural pumping system upgrades</li> <li>• VFD on Ag well pump serving non-pressurized system (add-on equipment)</li> <li>• VFD on Ag pump serving non-pressurized system</li> <li>• Milk transfer pump – VFD</li> <li>• Vacuum pumps – VFD</li> <li>• Milking vacuum pumps - VFD</li> </ul>		
<b>Wastewater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wastewater system controls and VFDs</li> <li>• High efficiency blowers</li> <li>• High efficiency pumps</li> <li>• High efficiency aerators</li> <li>• Wastewater treatment management system</li> <li>• Wastewater chemically enhanced primary treatment/sedimentation</li> </ul>		

# Deemed & DI Water Heating Requirements & Incentives



Customers who located within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) as defined by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 will receive a higher incentive than customers who are not. Customers who are classified as Hard-to-Reach (HTR) will be offered measures at no-cost.

Measure	Requirements	Standard Deemed Rebate	Increased Rebate for DAC Customers	DI Cost to Customer (for HTR and DAC customers only)
<b>Steam Traps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\geq 12</math> hours of average daily use</li> <li>• Any pipe size</li> </ul>	\$150 each	\$300 each	Not eligible
<b>Storage Water Heaters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 Gallon</li> <li>• <math>\geq 0.64</math> UEF</li> <li>• Input rating <math>\leq 75</math> kBtu/hr</li> </ul>	\$20 per rated MBtuh	\$27 per rated MBtuh	No Cost
<b>Storage Water Heaters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 Gallon</li> <li>• <math>\geq 0.68</math> UEF</li> <li>• Input rating <math>\leq 75</math> kBtu/hr</li> </ul>	\$22 per rated MBtuh	\$29 per rated MBtuh	No Cost
<b>Process Boiler</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\geq 90\%</math> CE Hot Water</li> <li>• Must replace standard efficiency process boiler</li> <li>• Input rating <math>\leq 20,000</math> kBtu/hr</li> </ul>	\$6 per rated MBtuh	\$10 per rated MBtuh	Not eligible
<b>Process Boiler</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\geq 85\%</math> CE Hot Water</li> <li>• Must replace standard efficiency process boiler</li> <li>• Input rating <math>\leq 20,000</math> kBtu/hr</li> </ul>	\$2 per rated MBtuh	\$2.95 per rated MBtuh	Not eligible
<b>Process Boiler</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\geq 83\%</math> CE Steam</li> <li>• Must replace standard efficiency process boiler</li> <li>• Input rating <math>\leq 20,000</math> kBtu/hr</li> </ul>	\$3 per rated MBtuh	\$4.35 per rated MBtuh	Not eligible

# Deemed & DI Insulation Requirements & Incentives



Customers who located within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) as defined by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 will receive a higher incentive than customers who are not. Customers who are classified as Hard-to-Reach (HTR) will be offered measures at no-cost.

Measure	Requirements	Standard Deemed Rebate	Increased Rebate for DAC Customers	DI Cost to Customer (for HTR and DAC customers only)
<b>Tank Insulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1" temperature application 120–170 degrees F solution</li> </ul>	\$2.50/ square foot	\$4.00/ square foot	No Cost
<b>Tank Insulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2" temperature application 170–200 degrees F solution</li> </ul>	\$3.25/ square foot	\$6.00/ square foot	No Cost
<b>Fitting Insulation (no steam for DI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1" minimum insulation thickness</li> <li>• &lt;= 1 inch pipe</li> <li>• &lt;=15 and &gt;15 PSIG Steam or Hot Water</li> <li>• ½" minimum pipe diameter</li> </ul>	\$10.00–\$15.00/fitting	\$15.00–\$22.50/fitting	No Cost (Hot Water only)
<b>Fitting Insulation (no steam for DI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1" minimum insulation thickness</li> <li>• &gt; 1 inch pipe</li> <li>• &lt;=15 and &gt;15 PSIG Steam or Hot Water</li> </ul>	\$14.00–\$40.00/fitting	\$22.00–\$60.00/fitting	No Cost (Hot Water only)
<b>Pipe Insulation (no steam for DI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One inch minimum insulation thickness</li> <li>• &lt;= 1" inch pipe, &lt;=15 and &gt;15 PSIG Steam, Hot Water, Indoor, and Outdoor – ½" minimum pipe diameter</li> <li>• 1 inch – &gt; 4 inch, &lt;=15 and &gt; 15 PSIG Steam, Hot Water, Indoor, and Outdoor</li> </ul>	\$2.50/ foot	\$4.00/ foot	No Cost (Hot Water only)

# Deemed & DI Greenhouse Requirements & Incentives

Customers who located within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) as defined by CalEnviroScreen 4.0 will receive a higher incentive than customers who are not. Customers who are classified as Hard-to-Reach (HTR) will be offered measures at no-cost.

Measure	Requirements	Standard Deemed Rebate	Increased Rebate for DAC Customers	DI Cost to Customer (for HTR and DAC customers only)
<b>Greenhouse Heat Curtain – Existing or New Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural gas savings rating <math>\geq 40\%</math></li> <li>Single layer interior curtain</li> <li>The heat curtain must have a warranty/product life of five years</li> <li>The installation must allow the curtain to be automatically or manually moved into place.</li> </ul>	\$0.35/ square foot floor area	\$0.50/ square foot floor area	No Cost
<b>Greenhouse Infrared Film - Existing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be infrared, anti-condensate, polyethylene plastic</li> <li>Minimum thickness of six thousandths of an inch</li> <li>Cannot be installed on greenhouse walls</li> </ul>	\$0.05/ square foot film area	\$0.10 / square foot film area	No Cost
<b>Greenhouse Infrared Film – New Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be infrared, anti-condensate, polyethylene plastic</li> <li>Minimum thickness of six thousandths of an inch</li> <li>Cannot be installed on greenhouse walls</li> </ul>	\$0.02/ square foot film area	\$0.02/ square foot film area	No Cost

# Custom Measure Incentives



Measures	Standard Incentive (\$/Therm Savings)	DAC Incentive (\$/Therm Savings)
Boiler System Upgrades	\$2.50	\$3.00
Condensing Unit Heater	\$2.50	\$3.00
Direct Contact Water Heater	\$2.50	\$3.00
Greenhouse Environmental Controls	\$2.50	\$3.00
Greenhouse IR Space Heating	\$2.50	\$3.00
Greenhouse Under-Bench Heating	\$2.50	\$3.00
Heat Recovery, Dehumidification Air Reheat	\$2.50	\$3.00
Process Heat Recovery	\$2.50	\$3.00
Process Pump VFD	\$2.50	\$3.00
Combined Heat and Power	\$2.50	\$3.00
Infrared Heating for Post-Harvest	\$2.50	\$3.00
Greenhouse Envelope Upgrades	\$2.50	\$3.00
Ozone Cleaning and Laundry	\$2.50	\$3.00
Greenhouse Retro commissioning	\$1.25	\$1.25

# Measure and Incentive Eligibility



## Basic Requirements for All Measures

- Customers must meet [general program eligibility](#) requirements to apply for AgEE Program incentives
- All equipment must be new electric powered equipment
- Qualifying equipment must be purchased and installed between July 5, 2022, and December 31, 2025. The purchase date of the equipment must be within the calendar year that the application is submitted unless indicated otherwise.
- All required efficiencies must exceed Title 20 and 24 standards.

## Training and education on broader participation benefits

- Energy savings
- Non-energy benefits (e.g., increased yield, worker safety, animal comfort, etc.)
- Building energy assessments
- Energy benchmarking
- Technical support in selecting the most beneficial measures
- Ongoing guidance regarding measure installation and usage
- Financing assistance through incentives and promotion of on-bill financing
- Provide customers with education on accessing grants such as those from the USDA
- Dedicated outreach for DAC and HTR customers

# Program Delivery and Customer Services





Get in touch with us:

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 <https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsICF/>

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# Panel Q & A

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