



waterwise

Guidance for Irrigators

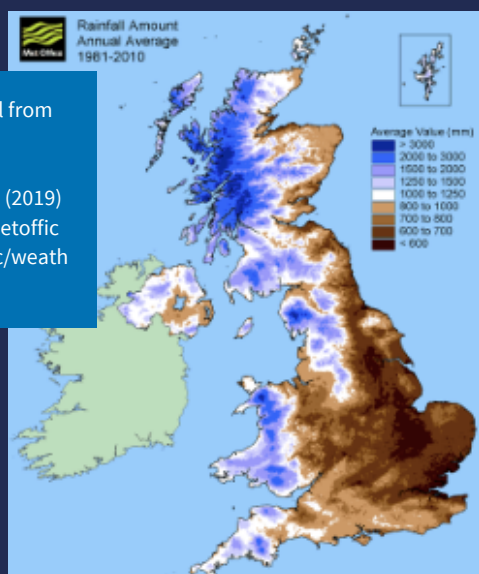
Water resilience in the golf sector



- Water is an increasingly precious and limited resource, especially during the summer.
- Temporary use bans and hands off flow constraints are likely to become more frequent for irrigators across the country during future dry summers.
- In 2018, England experienced the warmest summer on record; with temperatures reaching 35 degrees and some areas experiencing the driest summer since 1921.
- Many irrigation systems could not deliver the peak demands required to keep plants hydrated.
- Is your business water resilient? Could you irrigate more efficiently to reduce your water demand and your water bill?

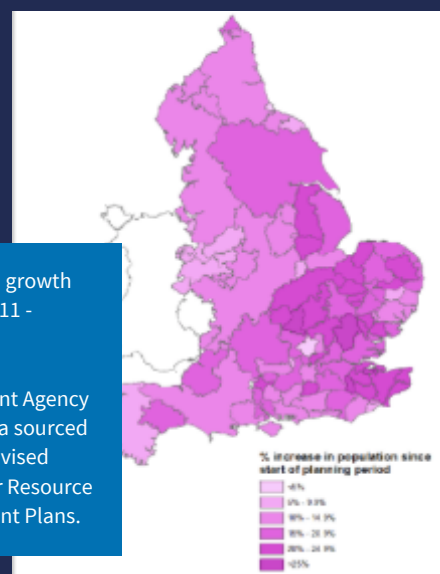
FACT

England's population is growing fastest in the regions that experience persistent below average rainfall, squeezing the water resources in these areas.



Average rainfall from 1961 - 2020

Met Office Data (2019)
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/climate/>



Population growth from 2020/11 - 2044/45

Environment Agency (2019). Data sourced from the revised draft Water Resource Management Plans.

IRRIGATION TIPS

- **Timing** - Irrigate in the early evening or at night and when wind speeds are low, to improve irrigation uniformity and increase water infiltration into the soil.
- **Method** - Use the most appropriate method of irrigation for your enterprise, no method is perfect. Spray irrigation is susceptible to wind drift, micro or trickle irrigation offers potential to reduce evaporation and achieve high water efficiency, but requires more management*.
- **Have a look at your water meter** and work out where and how much water you are using. Are there areas which you currently irrigate which don't need it?
- **Identify and repair leaks** - Report any major leaks to your local water company.

*Note: drip irrigation using direct abstraction is no longer unlicensed, for more information visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-new-abstraction-licence-for-a-currently-exempt-abstraction.



Visit
[waterwise.org.uk](https://www.waterwise.org.uk)
for more
information about
saving water.



BUSINESS RESILIENCE

Does your business have a resilience plan that considers water risks and how you might build resilience to cope with future droughts and/or water scarcity? How would your business cope if it was without mains water supply? How long until there were impacts on your grass/crops or flowers longer term?



RAIN WATER HARVESTING

Do you have any buildings you could collect rainfall from during wetter periods? Using rainwater is a great, low carbon alternative to treated water. Having your own stores of rainwater will increase your resilience to drought or interruption to supply.



ALTERNATIVE ABSTRACTION

Think about where your water could come from. You could investigate alternative sources of water like abstracting your own and potentially creating storage capacity on site. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-management-apply-for-a-water-abstraction-or-impoundment-licence> for more information about licensing.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

- The Environment Agency publishes irrigation prospects for England, these can be found here: <https://www.envireauwater.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Environment-Agency-Spray-irrigation-prospects-May-2019-final-.pdf>
- For weekly or monthly water resource updates at a regional and national level, see the water situation reports for England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england>.

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