

# Water Conservation Efficiencies of Drought Management Rule Exemption

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**Reference:** McDowell RJ, CA Pruitt, RA Bahn (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2015 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, April 28-29, 2015, University of Georgia, Athens.

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**Abstract.** An overview of the basis for conservation elements of the GA EPD Existing Outdoor Water Use Rules (Chapter 391-3-30) and the consideration of the exemptions listed therein becoming Drought Mitigation Strategies in the currently proposed EPD Drought Rules. This includes the intent behind the Water Stewardship Legislation of 2010 and the practical implications seen in the land-scape and nursery industry to implement the conservation mindset of several of the exemptions since that legislation. Examples of changing plant palettes, Best Management Practices, hand watering emphasis, advances in irrigation capabilities and 30 day rule for new plant installations will be discussed. The emphasis will be on the conservation these exemptions/strategies provide in the overall use of water.