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## **The Positive Economics of Greenhouse Irrigation**

Forrest Stegelin\*  
University of Georgia  
\* stegelin@uga.edu

### Abstract:

Greenhouse and nursery plants growers are in a period of legislative and economic risk in the Southeast. Shrinking water resources and extended drought periods have prompted exploratory legislation to restrict commercial water use. Large greenhouse operations are looking to water-wise irrigation systems, such as ebb-and-flow, drip, overhead boom, etc., as a way to minimize wasteful water use and to conserve the resource they have. The choices are not as simple as first meets the eye, as different plants require or grow best under different watering regimes, so the marketing or plant mix needs consideration as well. Then the economic and financial considerations can be considered. This report addresses the matching of the plant production needs with various appropriate irrigation systems, and the financial evaluation of the particular irrigation system in a greenhouse production environment.

### Impact Statement:

Depending upon the plant mix in production, the appropriate irrigation system generated a positive net present value and a double-digit internal rate of return for the greenhouse operation investing in the particular system. Irrigation system manufacturers and greenhouse design and installation firms are using the economic/financial data for use.

Category: Conservation and Resource Management

Type of Presentation: Oral Presentation