

Glossary

acid — A condition which is derived by partial exchange of replaceable hydrogen, an element that is sour, on the pH scale; acid conditions are any pH below 7.0 which is neutral.

alkaline — The condition of water or soil that contains an amount of alkali substances (various soluble salts) to raise the pH above 7.0; when extreme, alkalinity is caustic.

aquifer — A layer of underground rock or sand which stores and carries water.

brackish — Somewhat salty.

conserve — To use only what is needed.

deciduous — Losing foliage in autumn or winter.

ecotones — Regions where one ecosystem blends into another.

epiphyte — A plant that gets its moisture and nutrients from the air and rain.

groundcovers — Small plants that grow close to the ground.

groundwater — Water below the earth's surface.

herbaceous — Having the texture, color or appearance of a leaf, with little or no woody tissue.

humus — Decomposed plant or animal matter; the organic portion of soil.

hydric — Characterized by abundant moisture.

inorganic — Composed of matter other than plant or animal.

leach — To pass through by percolation.

marl — A loose, earthy deposit containing a substantial amount of calcium carbonate; used for soils deficient in lime.

mesic — Moist conditions; characterized by a moderate amount of moisture.

microclimate — A small-scale site of special conditions within a larger climate.

oasis — A restricted area of the landscape where specimen or colorful plants are used, although they may require more maintenance and water.

plat — A plan or map of a piece of land.

potable — Water suitable for human consumption.

practical turf area — A place where grass serves a function, such as a child's or pet's play area, or an area designed to receive stormwater runoff and pollution.

saline — Containing salt.

saltwater intrusion — When salt water moves into the freshwater zone of an aquifer, making the water unfit for drinking.

specimen planting — A plant located as a stand-alone highlight in a landscape design.

stormwater runoff — Rainwater that runs off surfaces into water bodies.

succession — A series of ecosystem changes where plants compete, succeeding and displacing each other as they respond to, and so modify, their environment.

topography — Natural features of land.

water table — The upper limit of where groundwater permeates the ground.

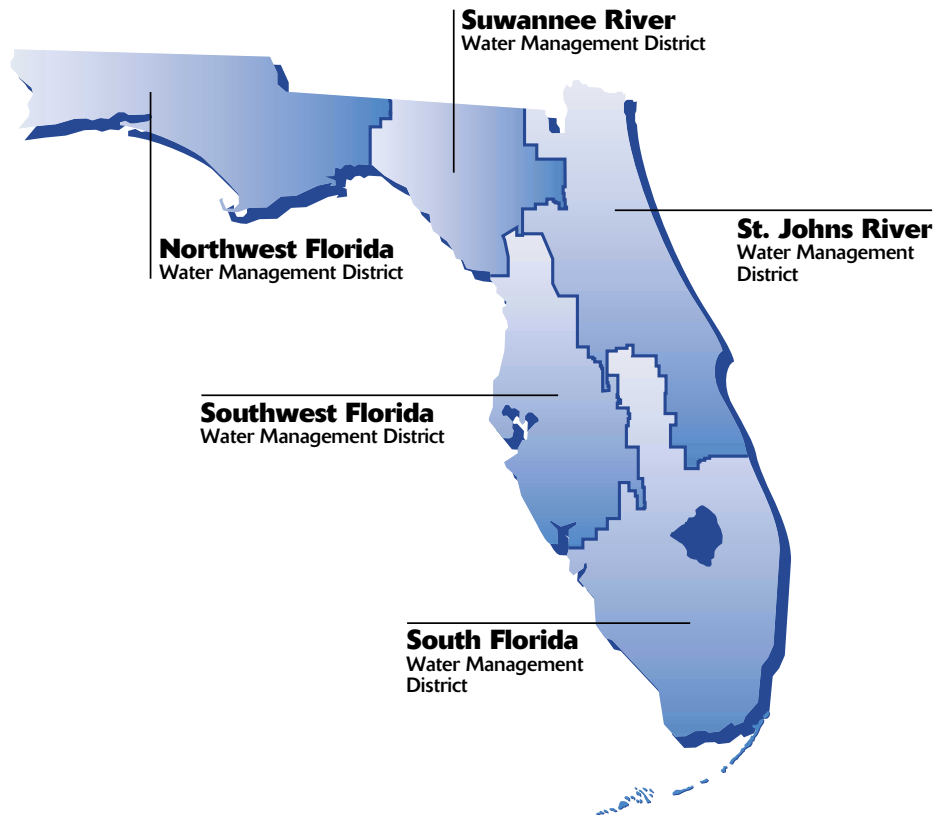
wetlands — Vegetated areas having high soil moisture year-round.

xeric — Characterized by dry conditions; requiring only a small amount of moisture.

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