

# Water Supply Studied

Improved management of present resources instead of weather modification or desalting offers the most practical solution to water supply problems in the near future, a Texas A&M water use authority said this week.

Dr. E. T. Smerdon, one of the lead-off speakers at the 20th annual Texas Turfgrass Conference, said weather modification is still largely in the dream stage. Seawater desalting and brackish water purification remain too costly for many purposes.

Smerdon is director of A&M's Water Resources Institute.

About 250 persons attending the three-day session heard the speaker describe manageable water as that which falls on land as rain and is subject to human treatment until it evaporates.

He said Texas receives average annual rainfall of 27 inches compared to 30 for the United States. About 39.6 per cent of the state's water evaporates, which is 3.5 times the amount discharged into the sea from streams. An estimated 45.9 per cent of rainfall is lost by transpiration from growing plants, 80 per cent of which is lost through brush, weeds and other non-economic plants.

Texas also loses 148 million acre-feet of water by evaporation from lakes and streams. The transpiration loss from non-economic plants is 138 million acre-feet. An acre-foot is one acre of water one foot deep.

Smerdon said savings would be tremendous if water evaporation and transpiration were cut only 5 per cent. Water saved would be 14.3 million acre-feet per year and would supply 7.6 million people at the 1964 per capita withdrawal rate of 1,675 gallons a day.

He pointed out that the 14.3 million acre-feet, if obtained by de-salting would cost about \$1.3 billion at the current going rate.

"Recognizing that some gross assumptions may have been made for the Texas situation, the opportunity for progress through control of losses by the evaporative process is still truly fantastic," Smerdon said.

For the U. S., he said it may be necessary by the year 2000 to withdraw about 2.75 million acre-feet per day from streams and the ground. This is roughly 70 per cent of the 4 million acre-feet per day available for use.

"The problem in the year 2000 will be untenable unless there are some very significant management and technological changes by then. No doubt, some changes will occur. The question is, will enough changes occur as a result of research between now and the year 2000 to permit our standard of living to continue upward?" Smerdon emphasized.

Other opening speakers were Dr. R. E. Patterson, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; Tom Mascaro, West Point Products Corp., West Point, Penn.; Dr. George Rice, A&M School of Business Administration; Marvin Springer, Hpringer and Associates, Dallas; and Dr. J. R. Runkles and C. R. Brooks of the A&M Soil and Crop Sciences Department.

**AAUP Meeting Slated Friday**  
Five questions will be studied

by members of the A&M chapter of the American Association of University Professors Friday. The group will meet at 7:30


p.m. in room 146 of the Physics Building. Faculty compensation recommendations to be made to the

Texas Legislative Committee will be reported by Leonard Burgess, associate professor of business administration. Mel Rotsch, pro-

fessor of architecture, will report on the Southwest conference meeting at Lake Texoma. Resolutions to be offered at

the state conference at Baylor will be discussed by John Treacy, associate professor of economics.

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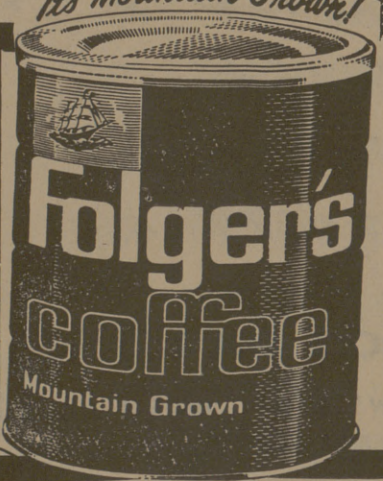
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