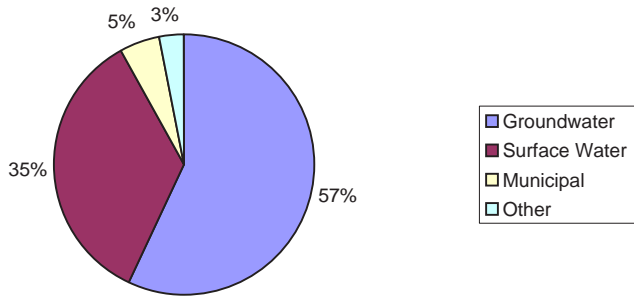
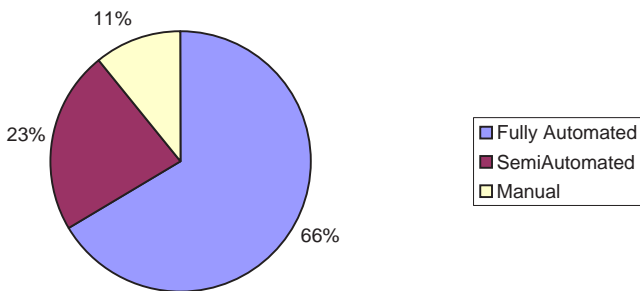


# WISCONSIN SOILS REPORT


Golf Course Irrigation Water Sources



Irrigation Systems



So overall, I think an 80 to 90% irrigation statewide efficiency is outstanding! There is not much room for improvement. But it's never a good idea to rest on your laurels, and the survey also revealed many opportunities for improvement. The calculation for irrigation efficiency takes into account the evapotranspiration and the available moisture in the soil (effective rainfall), but less than 15% of the superintendents were using the two outstanding tools to manage their water use. While collectively, superintendents seems to be doing a good job at intuitively getting the irrigation right, using a water budget approach which utilizes soil moisture monitoring and estimates of daily ET can make water management less intuitive and more scientific. It will also be easier to train your assistants to manage the irrigation this way.

Another opportunity for improvement is in irrigation system auditing. Only 5% of you admitted to having conducted an irrigation audit. While I am not necessarily a proponent of traditional catch-can style irrigation auditing, I think using a soil moisture meter to conduct a soil moisture uniformity audit is a very important task for maintaining consistent moisture on the course. For a detailed explanation on this process and its merits, check out my article in the September 2011 issue of the Grass Roots on irrigation distribution uniformity. I am also planning a workshop on soil moisture monitoring and irrigation auditing during the afternoon session at WTA Field Day on July 31st. Hope to see you there! 

## References:

Holbrook, A., J. Krosnick, and A. Pfent. 2007. The causes and consequences of response rate in surveys by the news media and government contractor survey research firms. In *Advances in Telephone Survey Methodology*. Eds. J.M. Lepkowski, et al. New York: Wiley.

## Coming Events!

Monday June 25th WGCSA Tournament, Oshkosh CC, Oshkosh

Tuesday July 31st Summer Field Day at OJ Noer Center, Verona

August 20th Joint Meeting w/NGLGCSA, Lake Arrowhead Golf Club, Nekoosa

Monday September 17th Wee One Fundraiser, Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan

Fri Oct 5th and Sat Oct 6th Couples Weekend, Edgewood GC, Big Bend

October 1, WTA Fundraiser, Ozaukee Country Club, Mequon

Tuesday & Wednesday December 4th and 5th, Golf Turf Symposium, American Club, Kohler