

Water: Too Much or Too Little?

What you can do to protect & conserve

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Presentation Topics

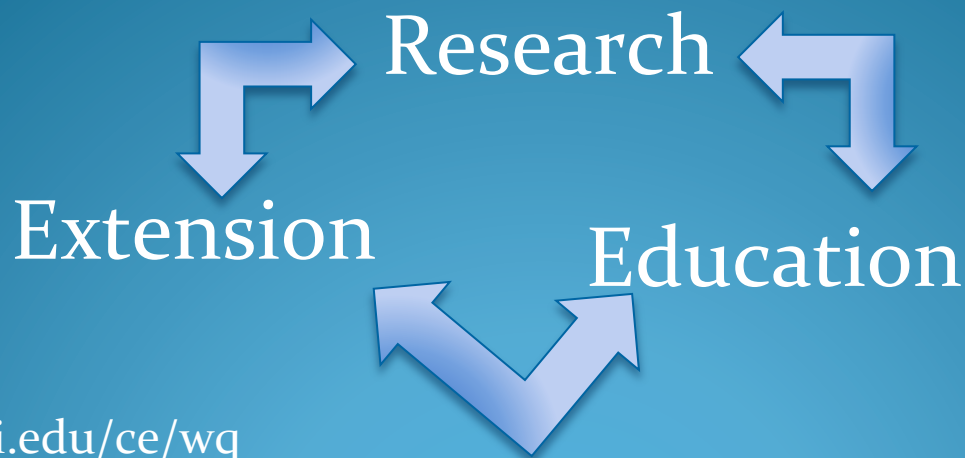
- Water - Too Much, Too Little?
- Private Well Water Protection
- Septic System Maintenance
- Stormwater Runoff
- Water Conservation

Resources: Riclimatchange.org



Extension's Water Quality Program

- URI Home*A*Syst
- URI NEMO (Non-point Education for Municipal Officials)
- New England On-Site Wastewater Training Center
- URI Watershed Watch

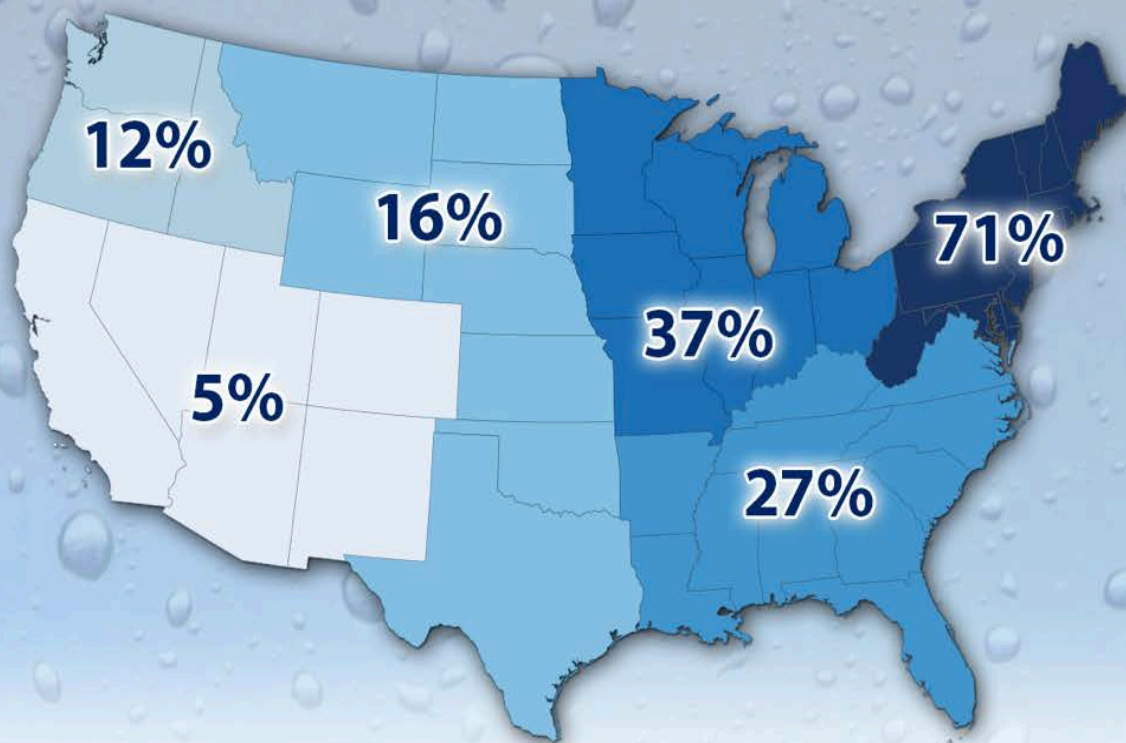


Background

- ✓ The Northeast has experienced greater increase in extreme precipitation events – very wet and very dry
- ✓ Increase severity of storms & heat waves
- ✓ Droughts may be more intense
- ✓ Coastal & river flooding
- ✓ Public health, agriculture, transportation, communications & energy systems face climate change-related challenges

From NOAA Technical Report, 2013.

Heavy Downpours Increasing



Percent increase from 1958 to 2012 in the amount of precipitation falling in very heavy events.

Very Heavy Precipitation is defined as the heaviest 1% of all daily events from 1958-2012.

A Watershed – rich in water resources



A Watershed – rich in water resources

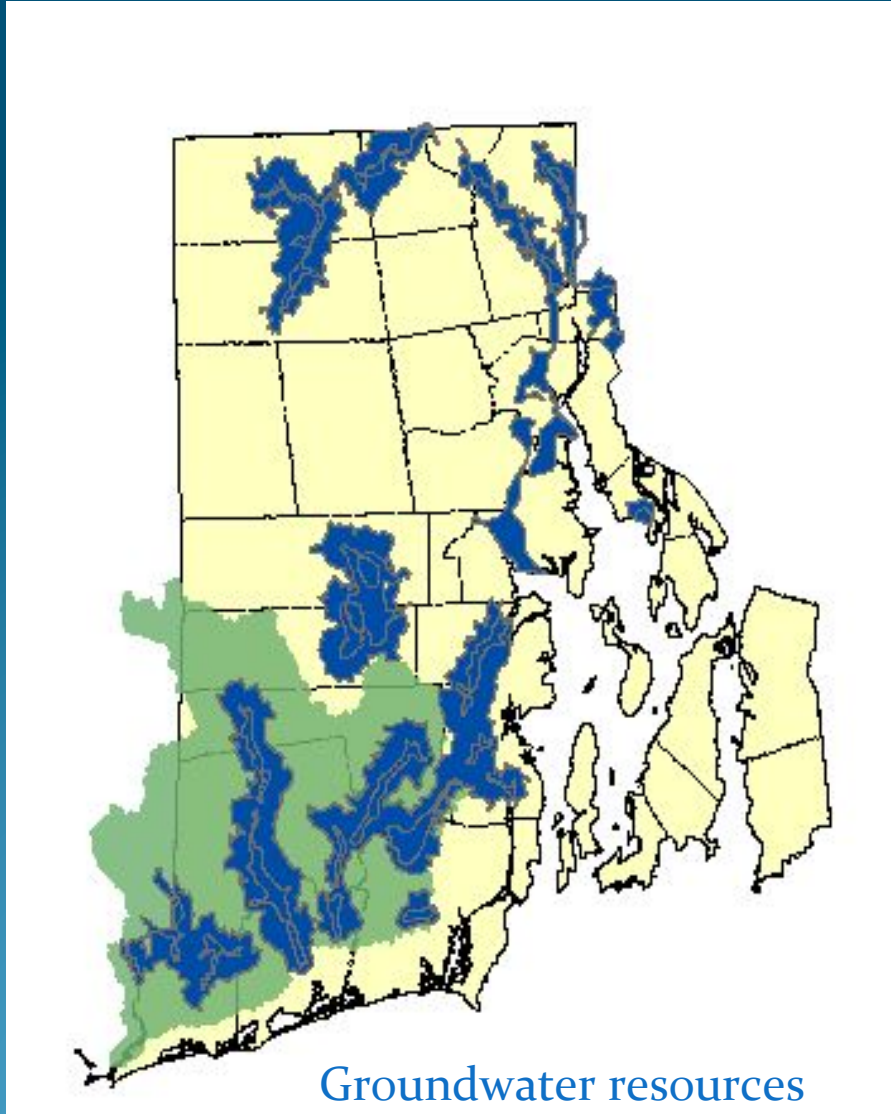




Photo credit: Laurel Street at Potter Hill Dam. Danielle R. Aube, 3_31_2010

We Can Do It!



J. Howard Miller

POST FEB. 15 TO FEB. 28



WAR PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Summary from 1st lecture

- Preserve & restore integrity of natural areas in the watershed
- Be prepared
- Get out of low-lying areas

Invest in Water Quality



At Home



Invest in Water Quality



In Our Communities



Private Well Protection

- Regular Testing
- Proper maintenance, construction & siting



Well Water Protection

Learn:

- ✓ Where the well is located on your property.
- ✓ What is going on around the well.
- ✓ What type of well you have.
- ✓ What the water test results mean.

When to test



- ✓ Follow the Well Testing Schedule
- ✓ If the well flooded – disinfect, then test
- ✓ If you notice a change in the taste, color, or smell

Maintenance Issues

- ✓ Wellhead is at least 18" above the ground.
- ✓ Well cap is on tight and sealed.
- ✓ Well casing is grouted and water tight.
- ✓ Well is located away from potential pollution sources.
- ✓ Work on well should be done by a registered well driller/pump installer
- ✓ Keep stormwater runoff away from your well

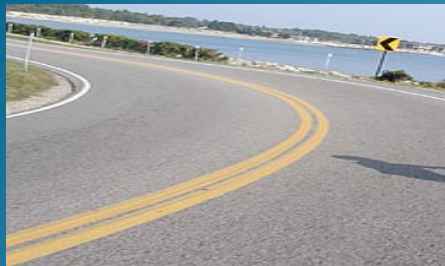


Minimum Distances from Potential Sources of Pollution



Sewer Line

50 feet



Road Surface



75 feet



Septic Tank



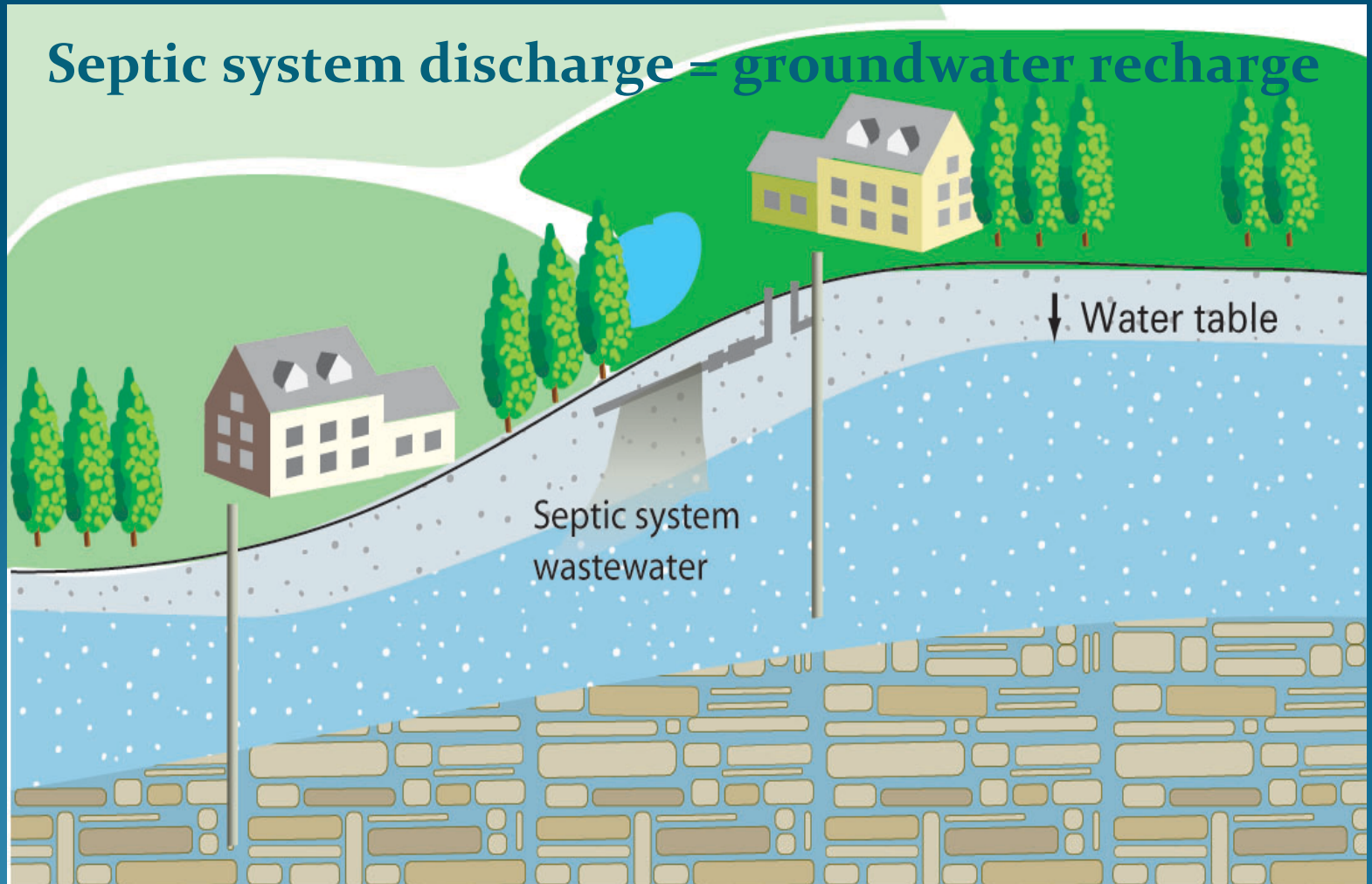
Septic System Drainfield

100 feet



Animals

How can a septic system affect groundwater and well water quality?



Septic System Maintenance

- ✓ Have system inspected and pumped as needed
- ✓ Only household wastewater down the drain

Watershed Communities with Wastewater Management Program

- Charlestown
- Exeter
- Hopkinton
- North Kingstown
- Richmond
- South Kingstown

Resources: www.uri.edu/ce/wq/OWT/Factsheets

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/finance/non/pdfs/munisep.pdf>



Stormwater Solutions

- ✓ Protects & conserves water resources
- ✓ Is your yard a sponge?



Rain barrel



Rain garden
CE Outreach Center
web.uri.edu/ceoc/

Water Conservation

- Saves Money
- Saves Energy
- Reduces Pollution
- Helps to Reduce Effects of Drought

Outdoor Water Conservation

- ✓ Fescue to the Rescue
 - ✓ Requires less water, fertilizer & pesticides
 - ✓ Drought tolerant
- ✓ Mow high – 2 to 3 inches
- ✓ Use a rain gauge – 1” per week is rule of thumb
- ✓ Slow, deep waterings are best
- ✓ Use drought tolerant plants
- ✓ Mulch, add compost

Indoor Water Conservation

- Your turn – what are your indoor water conservation practices?
- Check and fix leaks
- Install water conservation fixtures and appliances



Stay Involved / Get Involved

- ✓ Volunteer
 - Water Quality monitors are eyes & ears of the watershed
 - Data identify problems & high quality resources that afford protection
 - Connect with your community's stormwater program
- ✓ Support efforts to preserve and restore integrity of natural areas in the watershed
- ✓ Invest in Water Quality
- ✓ Your Thoughts & Suggestions



Thank you!

