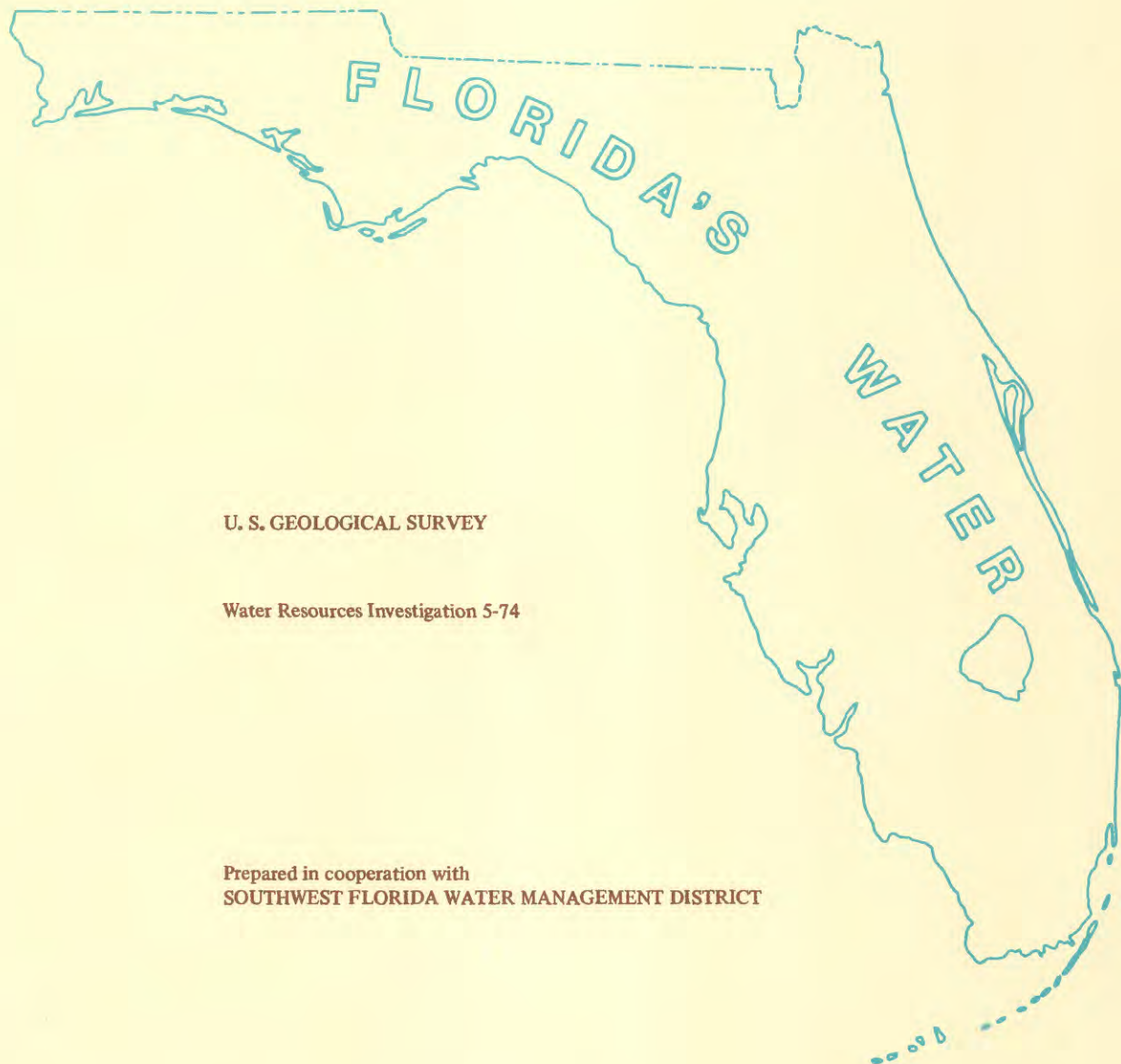


EVALUATION OF A PROPOSED CONNECTOR WELL, NORTHEASTERN DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA



U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Water Resources Investigation 5-74

Prepared in cooperation with
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



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July 1974

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FACTORS FOR CONVERTING ENGLISH UNITS TO INTERNATIONAL

SYSTEM (SI) UNITS

Multiply English units	By	To obtain SI units
Length		
inches (in.)	25.4	millimeters (mm)
	2.54	centimeters (cm)
	.025	meters (m)
feet (ft)	.305	meters (m)
miles (mi)	1.6	kilometers (km)
Area		
acres	.405	hectares (ha)
	4.05×10^{-3}	square kilometers (km^2)
square miles (mi^2)	2.59	square kilometers (km^2)
Volume		
gallons (gal)	3.79	liters (l)
	3.79	cubic meters (m^3)
Flow		
gallons per minute (gpm)	.063	liters per second (l/s)
million gallons per day (mgd)	.044	cubic meters ₃ per second (m^3/s)
Transmissivity		
square feet per day (ft^2/day)	0.093	square meters per day (m^2/day)
Hydraulic conductivity		
feet per day (ft/day)	0.305	meters per day (m/day)
Specific capacity		
gallons per minute per foot (gpm/ft)	0.207	liters per second per meter (l/s/m)

EVALUATION OF A PROPOSED CONNECTOR WELL, NORTHEASTERN

DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

By C. B. Hutchinson and William E. Wilson

ABSTRACT

A connector well is proposed as a resource-management tool for capturing water normally lost through evapotranspiration and by runoff in a 24,000-acre (9,700-hectare) citrus grove in northeastern DeSoto County. The well would connect the surficial sand aquifer with the deep, highly transmissive Floridan limestone aquifer. Because of natural head differences, water would move by gravity flow from the upper into the lower aquifer. An investigation was conducted to determine the hydrologic and geologic suitability of the area for connector wells, and to design a test connector well and estimate its probable yield.

A 70-acre (28-hectare) marsh was selected for a test site. The sand aquifer, about 45 feet (14 meters) thick, consists of an upper fine sand unit and a lower medium-coarse sand unit, separated by a clay bed 5 feet (1.5 meters) thick. Transmissivity of this aquifer is about 1,750 square feet (163 square meters) per day. Under natural conditions, the water table is about 40 feet (12 meters) above the potentiometric surface of the Floridan Aquifer. Water in the sand aquifer is of suitable quality for recharging the Floridan Aquifer.

Estimated recharge rate of the proposed connector well is about 160 gallons per minute (10.7 liters per second) under steady-state conditions. Recharge rates can probably be increased by installing subsurface drain tiles, flooding the marsh surface, and perforating the clay bed in the sand aquifer.

The proposed connector well is designed to have two sand-packed screens, 10 inches (25 centimeters) in diameter, one in the upper and the other in the lower unit of the sand aquifer; about 400 feet (120 meters) of 6-inch (15-centimeter) casing through confining beds and a secondary limestone aquifer; and about 250 feet (76 meters) of open hole in the Floridan Aquifer.

INTRODUCTION

Florida's largest citrus grove has been established in northeastern DeSoto County (fig. 1). About 24,000 acres (37.5 mi²) or 9,700 hectares have been planted in citrus. The principal source of water for irrigation is the Floridan Aquifer, a highly transmissive artesian limestone aquifer which occurs from about 500 to 1,500 feet (150 to 450 m) below

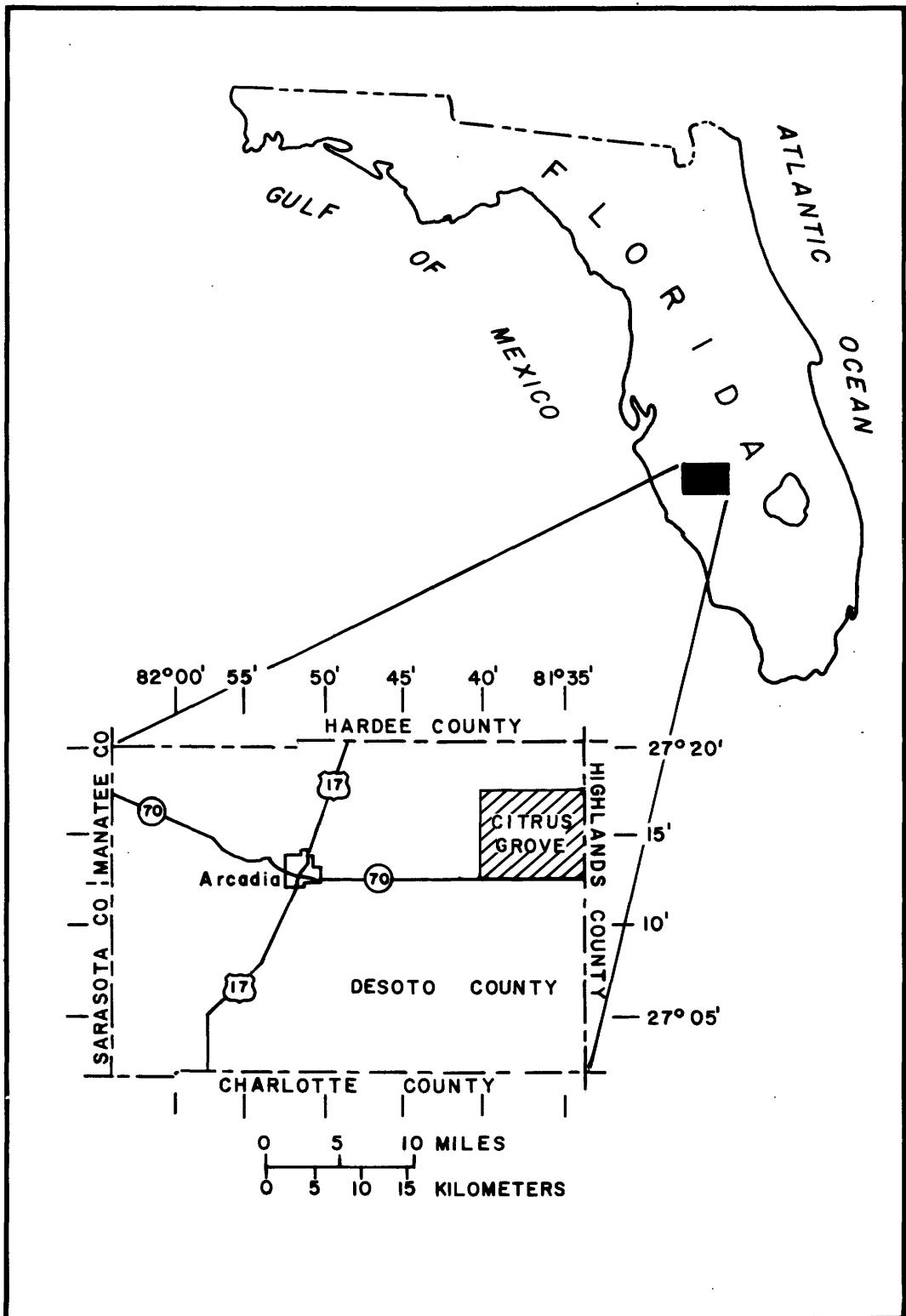


Figure 1. Location of the citrus grove study area, DeSoto County.

the land surface. As a resource-management tool, it may be feasible to use connector wells to recharge this aquifer with ground water from a shallow sand aquifer.

This report presents the results of a 1-year study undertaken by the U. S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The objectives of the investigation were to: (1) determine the hydrologic and geologic suitability of the area for installing connector wells; (2) make a preliminary estimate of the amount and quality of water available for recharge; and (3) suggest a possible construction for a test connector well.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and assistance of personnel of American Agronomics Corporation and American International Food Corporation. Personnel at Tropical River Groves generously provided time and equipment to expedite the investigation. Herman Cail, Grove Superintendent, and Kenneth A. Harris, Consulting Engineer, offered encouragement and support for the investigation through their many helpful comments and suggestions.

THE CONNECTOR-WELL CONCEPT

Connector wells have been considered to be a potential resource-management tool for central Florida for many years, but not until the late 1960's were detailed field investigations undertaken to determine the hydrologic and geologic feasibility of installing such wells. Test connector wells have been installed by the U. S. Geological Survey near Orlando and Tampa, and industrial applications are being tested in the phosphate district in Polk County.

A connector well is so named because it connects two aquifers that, under natural conditions, are hydraulically separated by a confining bed. In northeastern DeSoto County, as elsewhere in central Florida, one feasible combination would be to screen opposite the sand aquifer, penetrate and case through confining beds, and drill open hole in the Floridan Aquifer. Because the water table is higher than the potentiometric surface of the artesian aquifer, ground water would move by gravity flow from the upper to the deeper aquifer through the connector well. Thus, connector wells differ from injection wells and drainage wells that have been used in Florida to dispose of surface water and waste water directly from the land surface into the ground. In contrast to these wells, connector wells recharge water that has moved through the natural filter of unconsolidated deposits.

Water for a connector well is derived initially from aquifer storage and ultimately from a reduction in previous aquifer discharge, or an increase in recharge to the aquifer, or a combination of these. These changes in recharge-discharge are termed capture (Lohman and others, 1972, p. 3). Captured water for a connector well is primarily water that would have otherwise run off or evapotranspired.

As a result of recharge by connector wells, lowering of the artesian potentiometric surface caused by pumping is reduced, and water normally lost to evapotranspiration or runoff is continuously captured and returned to storage for future withdrawal. In addition, the successful operation of a connector well offers the possibility of converting water-logged marshes into tillable land. From a drainage standpoint, lowering the water table below the depth of citrus root zones would make the land more suitable for citrus growth. Other considerations, however, may make this management alternative impractical or undesirable. Among them are the extent of land preparation required, the effects on surface runoff, the desirability of retaining flooding capabilities, and the ecological desirability of retaining marshland.

HYDROGEOLOGIC SETTING

The area of investigation lies in the nearly flat prairieland of the DeSoto Plain, in the Gulf Coastal Lowlands physiographic unit of Puri and Vernon (1964). Land-surface altitudes range from 75 to 95 ft (23 to 29 m) above mean sea level. Under natural conditions the land is poorly drained and the water table is at or near land surface during most of the year. The numerous shallow depressions that dot the landscape form marshes that intermittently contain water. At the grove site, an extensive system of ditches and network of control structures have been installed to control both runoff and the level of the shallow water table.

The hydrogeologic units underlying the grove area include the sand aquifer, a secondary artesian aquifer, the Floridan Aquifer, and intervening confining beds (table 1). The deposits of the sand aquifer are variable in texture, but are predominantly fine grained. At the grove, the depth to the water table in the aquifer is generally maintained within a few feet of land surface by controlling water levels in the ditches. This aquifer is not tapped by wells at the grove.

The secondary and Floridan artesian aquifers, principally limestone and dolomite of Eocene to Miocene age, are the sources of ground water for irrigation at the grove. The highly transmissive Floridan Aquifer, which underlies all of Florida, is about 1,000 ft (300 m) thick here and comprises the Avon Park Limestone, Ocala Limestone, and Suwannee Limestone.

A confining bed of about 150 ft (45 m) of interbedded sand, clay, and marl within the Tampa Limestone separates the Floridan Aquifer from the overlying secondary aquifer. The secondary aquifer consists of about 150 ft (45 m) of permeable limestone within the Hawthorn Formation and is confined above by 100 to 150 ft (30 to 45 m) of sandy clay and marl.

Irrigation wells at the grove are drilled open hole through the secondary and Floridan aquifers and are cased through the sand aquifer and the confining beds. By 1972, 37 wells had been drilled, one per square-mile section. Well depth averages about 1,340 ft (400 m) and the yield averages about 1,800 gpm (gallons per minute), or 114 l/s (liters per second). Field specific capacities computed for 15 wells range from 13 to 121 gpm/ft (2.7 to 25 l/s/m) and average 62 gpm/ft (13 l/s/m).

Table 1.--Hydrogeologic units at the project citrus grove, northeastern DeSoto County

Hydrogeologic unit	Approximate depth below land surface (ft)	Approximate thickness (ft)	Lithology	Formation	Geologic age
Sand aquifer	0	50	Fine-coarse sand, clayey sand, clay	Undifferentiated deposits	Holocene to late Miocene
Confining bed	50	100	Sandy clay, and marl		
Secondary aquifer	150	150	Limestone	Hawthorn Formation	
Confining bed	300	150	Clay, sand, marl, limestone	Tampa Limestone	Miocene
Floridan aquifer	450	1000	Limestone and dolomite	Suwannee Limestone Ocala Limestone Avon Park Limestone	Oligocene Eocene

Irrigation at the grove is seasonal, with heaviest pumping during the dry spring months, and little or no pumping during the rainy summer months. During 1971 and 1972, pumpage averaged about 12.5 mgd (million gallons per day), or $0.55 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ (cubic meters per second); withdrawal rates were as high as 46 mgd ($2.0 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$) during the spring. Wells discharge directly into ditches used to control the level of the water table beneath planted areas.

Under non-pumping conditions, the integrated potentiometric surface, as measured in irrigation wells open to both the secondary and Floridan aquifers, has a very gentle gradient and is about 35 to 40 ft (10.7 to 12.2 m) below land surface. Probably little head difference exists between the two artesian aquifers under non-pumping conditions. During the irrigation season, the integrated potentiometric surface declines to more than 50 ft (15.2 m) below land surface. Thus, throughout the year, a head difference of at least 40 ft (12.2 m) exists between the sand aquifer and the artesian aquifers.

The combined transmissivity of the secondary and Floridan Aquifers is about $270,000 \text{ ft}^2/\text{day}$ (2 million gpd/ft), or $25,000 \text{ m}^2/\text{day}$ (Wilson, 1972, p. 301). The hydraulic characteristics of these two aquifers have not been determined separately, but the contribution to water pumped by irrigation wells at the grove is much greater from the Floridan Aquifer than from the secondary aquifer. The proposed connector well will recharge only the Floridan Aquifer.

TEST SITE

Site Selection

The grove contains numerous marshy, shallow depressions that are unsuitable for citrus growth. These depressions, which individually may cover as much as 100 acres (40 ha), act as natural collecting basins for surface runoff, and during the wet period (June-September), water may be 3 ft (1 m) deep in them. The depressions were deemed feasible sites for artificial-recharge experiments. A power auger was used to test drill six of the marsh areas to determine the most suitable site for a test connector well. Selection of drilling sites was based upon two criteria: (1) size of the marsh, the largest ones being most acceptable, and (2) evenness of areal distribution so that all quadrants of the grove were tested. Split-spoon samples were taken at 5 ft (1.5 m) intervals to depths of about 60 ft (18 m) ensuring good penetration of the upper confining bed. Locations of test-hole sites are shown on figure 2, and logs of all test holes are given in appendix 1.

At all marsh sites, the samples indicated about 50 ft (15 m) of sand and clayey sand. At one site in the northwestern part of the grove, a particularly well-sorted 15-ft (5-m) bed of medium-coarse sand was found. This marsh, covering about 70 acres (28 ha), was selected as the test site (fig. 2) for construction of a connector well.

Hydrogeologic Conditions

Geology of Unconsolidated Deposits

The unconsolidated deposits of the sand aquifer are mostly post-Miocene in age. Figure 3, a north-south cross section through a line of observation wells, shows lithology of the aquifer and sampling points at the test site. The section consists of an upper unit of well-sorted fine to medium sand that becomes phosphatic and clayey as it grades to a stiff clay at a depth of about 25 ft (7.6 m). This layer of stiff, greenish-gray clay was found at all well sites at a depth of 25 to 30 ft (7.6 to 9.2 m). The contact between the clay and the underlying lower sand unit is sharp. Below the clay lies a poorly sorted, medium-to-coarse, slightly clayey sand which becomes well sorted from about 35 to 50 ft (11 to 15 m).

Some physical characteristics of the unconsolidated deposits at the test site are summarized in table 2. The results are based on analyses of split-spoon samples. Median grain size and two sorting parameters, uniformity coefficient and standard deviation sorting factor, were determined from curves of grain-size distribution, based on sieve analyses. Sample descriptions are based on a system of Shepard, as described by Pettijohn (1957, p. 24), using the Wentworth grain-size classification.

Aquifer Transmissivity

Transmissivity of the sand aquifer is probably 1,500 to 2,000 ft²/day (140 to 185 m²/day), as determined from the sum of the products of average horizontal hydraulic conductivity and thickness of individual lithologic units (table 3). Hydraulic conductivities are based on grain size and sorting and are probably conservatively low (Masch and Denny, 1966). Hydraulic conductivity was not determined for beds of the sand aquifer that are poorly sorted (high uniformity coefficient) or have a bimodal grain-size distribution. However, hydraulic conductivities of these beds are low and do not significantly contribute to the transmissivity of the total section. An average transmissivity of 1,750 ft²/day (163 m²/day) was used in the analyses of recharge rates.

Head Relations

The geologic section of figure 3 shows that the water table is approximately at land surface at the marsh. This position is based on five measurements made from May to September 1972 in each of two observation wells 30 ft (9 m) from the proposed test connector-well site. One well (4S) is developed opposite the upper fine sand unit, and the other (4D) is opposite the lower medium-coarse sand unit. The altitude of land surface at both wells is about 88 ft (27 m) above mean sea level. The May and September water-level depths in the two wells, in feet above (+) or below (-) land surface, were as follows:

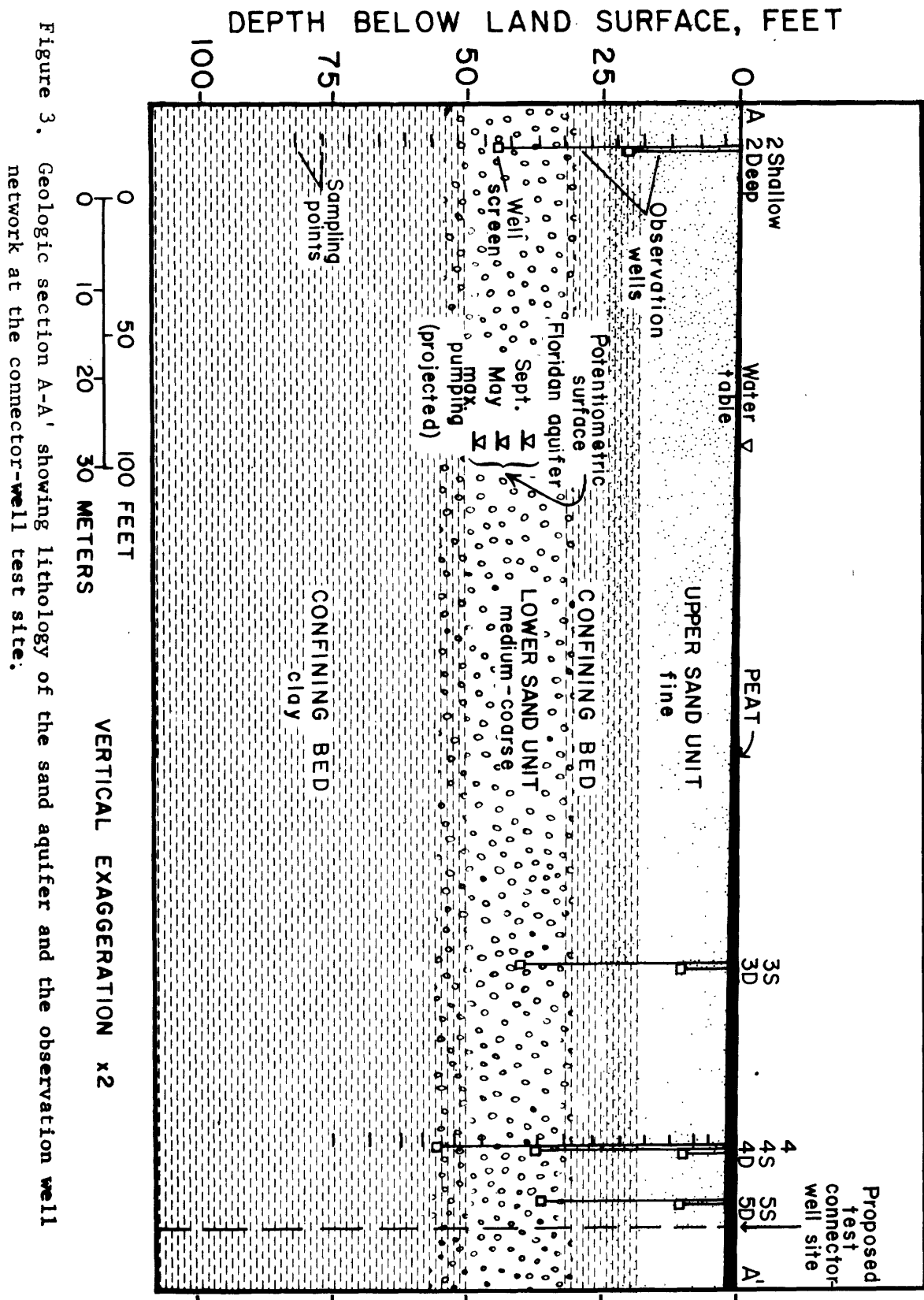


Figure 3. Geologic section A-A' showing lithology of the sand aquifer and the observation well network at the connector-well test site.

Table 2--Physical characteristics of split-spoon samples from well 4

Depth below land surface (ft)	Description ¹	Median grain size ² , D ₅₀ (mm)	Grain-size distribution (percent)		
			Clay	Silt	Sand
0.5	Peat	-	-	-	-
5	Fine sand	0.17	0	0	100
8	Fine sand	.15	2.0±	3.3±	94.7
12	Fine sand	.19	0	0	100
17	Medium sand	.37	14.4	0.5	85.1
22	Medium sand	.50	5.0±	1.9±	93.1
27	Silty clay	.004	42.9	41.5	15.6
32	Coarse sand	.55	10.4	1.8	87.8
37	Coarse sand	.65	0	0	100
42	(7)	-	-	-	-
47	Medium sand	.34	0	0	100
52	Fine sand	.22	5.7	3.2	91.1
58	Fine sand	.25	0	0	100
62	Fine sand	.19	11.0	0	89.0
68	Fine sand	.20	0	0	100
74	Fine sand	.17	11.5	7.1	81.4

1 Determined from ternary diagram of Shepard (as described in Pettijohn, 1957), using median grain size as a modifier.

2 D₅₀ is the grain diameter corresponding to the 50 percent-finer value on the particle-size curve.

3 Determined by averaging the slope of the particle-size curve between D₁₀ and D₆₀ diameters.

4 Calculated from the equation:
$$\left[(\phi_{84} - \phi_{16}) / 4 + (\phi_{95} - \phi_5) / 6.6 \right] = \sigma_1$$
 (Masch and Denny, 1966).

5 Derived from family of σ_1 curves plotted on graph of D₅₀ vs. K (Masch and Denny, 1966). Not determined for samples with either a bimodal particle-size distribution or a C_u greater than 5.0.

6 Determined from laboratory tests of undisturbed samples.

7 Similar to the sample taken at 37 feet.

Table 2.--Physical characteristics of split-spoon samples from well 4 (cont)

Depth below land surface (ft)	Sorting		Total porosity (percent)	Hydraulic conductivity, K (ft/day)	
	Uniformity coefficient, C_u	Standard deviation factor ⁴ , 1		Horizontal ⁵	Vertical ⁶
0.5	-	-	-	-	0.07
5	2.56	0.93	-	20.1	-
8	2.57	1.11	33.3	16.7	3.02
12	2.53	.97	-	21.4	-
17	>5	-	36.7	-	.01
22	4.21	-	35.2	-	.28
27	>5	-	53.4	-	1.1×10^{-5}
32	>5	-	41.2	-	.05
37	2.54	.68	32.3	120.3	15.1
42	-	-	-	-	-
47	2.53	.88	38.6	40.1	.36
52	2.93	-	40.2	-	.25
58	2.07	-	-	-	-
62	>5	-	45.2	-	.03
68	1.59	-	-	-	-
74	>5	-	47.5	-	.08

Table 3.--Transmissivity of the sand aquifer

Depth below land surface (ft)	Lithologic unit	Thick- ness (ft)	Average horizontal hydraulic conductivity (ft/day) ¹	Trans- missivity (ft ² /day)
0-17	Fine sand	17	19.4	330
17-25	Clayey sand	8	(2)	-
25-30	Clay	5	(2)	-
30-35	Clayey sand	5	(2)	-
35-45	Coarse sand	10	120.3	1,200
45-50	Medium sand	5	40.1	200
50	Clayey sand	-	(2)	-

Aquifer transmissivity: >1,730

¹ See table 2.

² No estimate of hydraulic conductivity made because of poor sorting and bimodal grain-size distribution.

	<u>May</u>	<u>September</u>
Well 4S	-2.2	+1.1
Well 4D	-3.8	-2.8

The difference in head between the two sand units and the difference in range of fluctuation indicate that the intervening 5-ft (1.5-m) clay bed effectively separates the units hydraulically. Depth of the contact between the clay bed and the lower sand unit is about 30 ft (9 m). The water level in well 4D stands above this contact, indicating that water in this unit is confined. The water level in well 4S was above land surface in September and coincided closely with the level of standing water in the marsh, indicating unconfined conditions in the upper sand unit.

The approximate seasonal positions of the integrated potentiometric surface of the secondary and Floridan aquifers are shown on figure 3. Seasonal positions are based on static water-level measurements in an observation well about 2,000 ft (610 m) northwest of the test site. When the 42 mi² (109 km²) of grove are fully developed, an additional seasonal decline of about 5 ft (1.5 m) is projected, based on anticipated pumping rates and patterns (Wilson, 1972, p. 304). Thus, the lowest depth expected would be about 50 ft (15 m) below land surface.

The relative positions of the water levels indicate 40 to 50 ft (12 to 15 m) of head difference available to move shallow ground water through the connector-well screens to the deep aquifer. Because the transmissivity of the artesian limestone aquifer is very much greater than that of the sand aquifer (>100x), the water level in the functioning connector well will ultimately approximate the position of the potentiometric surface.

Water Quality

Ground water in the sand aquifer has a lower dissolved-solids concentration than water in the secondary and Floridan aquifers (table 4). The water from the Floridan Aquifer is a calcium magnesium sulfate type. Water in the lower sand unit has almost the same relative composition as that in the secondary aquifer, but that in the secondary has a higher dissolved-solids concentration. Water pumped from the grove irrigation wells is suitable for citrus production but it is characteristically very hard and high in concentration of sulfate and dissolved solids.

The relatively high iron concentration of 8.6 mg/l (milligrams per liter) in the upper sand unit (table 4) may result from reduction of organic materials in the overlying peat layer. Iron may be troublesome from the standpoint of the efficiency of operation of a connector well because as recharge water passes through the connector-well screens, it may become aerated, producing an oxidizing condition favorable for the deposition of iron oxide. The deposition may eventually clog the screens, but the rate of clogging is unknown.

Table 4.--Quality of ground water

Quality parameter (All concentrations in milligrams per liter, except as noted)	Sand aquifer		Secondary aquifer (Well TB-2)	Floridan Aquifer (Well 3)
	Upper sand unit (Well 2S)	Lower sand unit (Well 2D)		
Color (Pt-Co units)	45	40	0	15
Silica (SiO ₂)	15	25	38	21
Calcium (Ca ²⁺)	24	13	32	100
Magnesium (Mg)	5.6	4.3	26	50
Strontium (Sr) (μg/l)	.12	.17	5.6	21
Sodium (Na)	12	22	78	18
Potassium (K)	.9	1.6	6.3	2.9
pH	6.3	6	8.3	7.1
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃)	110	60	210	136
Sulfate (SO ₄)	.8	0	81	360
Chloride (Cl ⁻)	12	31	81	25
Fluoride (F)	.7	.6	2.6	1.1
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	90	49	72	112
Ca-Mg hard. as CaCO ₃	83	50	194	480
Non. Carb. hard. as CaCO ₃	0	1	22	370
Diss. solids residue	143	157		728
Diss. solids-sum	125	128	454	666
Specific conductance (μmhos at 25°C)	230	220	740	970
Aluminum (Al)	0	.1	-	0
Arsenic (As)	0	0	-	0
Boron (B)	.24	.09	-	.04
Cadmium (Cd)	0	0	-	0
Copper (Cu)	0	0	-	0
Iron (Fe)	8.6	1.2	-	.9
Lead (Pb)	0	.001	-	.002
Zinc (Zn)	.74	.31	-	.03
Org. Carbon (filt.)	24	16	-	-
Inorg. Carbon (filt.)	38	32	-	-
Org. Carbon (unfilt.)	22	-	-	-
Inorg. Carbon (unfilt.)	50	-	-	-

Water samples from all aquifers and from irrigation ditches were tested for the presence of pesticides used for the control of weed and insect growth within the citrus development. The analyses showed no traces of any of these chemicals. Samples will be collected at regular intervals to monitor water quality.

Because the water of the sand aquifer has a low dissolved-solids concentration, recharge through the connector well should have a diluting effect upon the water of the Floridan Aquifer, which has a higher dissolved-solids concentration. The more acidic recharge water could possibly augment solution channel development in the limestone.

PROPOSED CONNECTOR WELL

Recharge Rate

Methods for estimating the amount of water that could be recharged through connector wells are not highly developed. Two approaches were used in this investigation. In the first, water for recharge is assumed to come solely from storage in the sand aquifer; under these conditions drawdown at the connector well is assumed to be constant and recharge rate declines with time but at a decreasing rate. In the second approach, long-term recharge rate is assumed to equal the rate at which water can be captured from runoff and evapotranspiration; under these conditions, drawdown in the sand aquifer would continue until the recharge rate of the well equals the capture rate and steady state conditions are reached. In both analyses, transmissivity of the sand aquifer is $1,750 \text{ ft}^2/\text{day}$ ($163 \text{ m}^2/\text{day}$). Storage coefficient was estimated to be 0.20. Because of the large difference in transmissivity between the sand aquifer and the Floridan Aquifer, build-up of the artesian potentiometric surface was assumed to be negligible, and the available drawdown in the connector well was assumed to be the full 40 ft (12.2 m) of initial head difference. In both analyses, adjustments in available drawdown were made to account for dewatering of the upper part of the sand aquifer, based on the method of Jacob (1963). Initial aquifer thickness is 45 ft (13.7 m), the combined thickness of the two sand units.

Figure 4 shows that the recharge rate analyzed by the constant drawdown method for the conditions stated would be 230 gpm (14.5 l/s) after one day and about 155 gpm (9.8 l/s) after 200 days. The analysis is based on the flowing-well equation of Jacob and Lohman (1952), as summarized by Lohman (1972). The method assumes no water is obtained from capture and that no natural recharge to the sand aquifer occurs. Thus this approach would probably be applicable for the initial operation of the connector well and during dry periods when water would be obtained from storage in the sand aquifer.

As drawdown in the sand aquifer occurs, however, some water that otherwise would have run off or evapotranspired is captured and recharged through the well. Therefore, use of the capture method probably provides a more reliable indication of the long-term average recharge rate of the connector well.

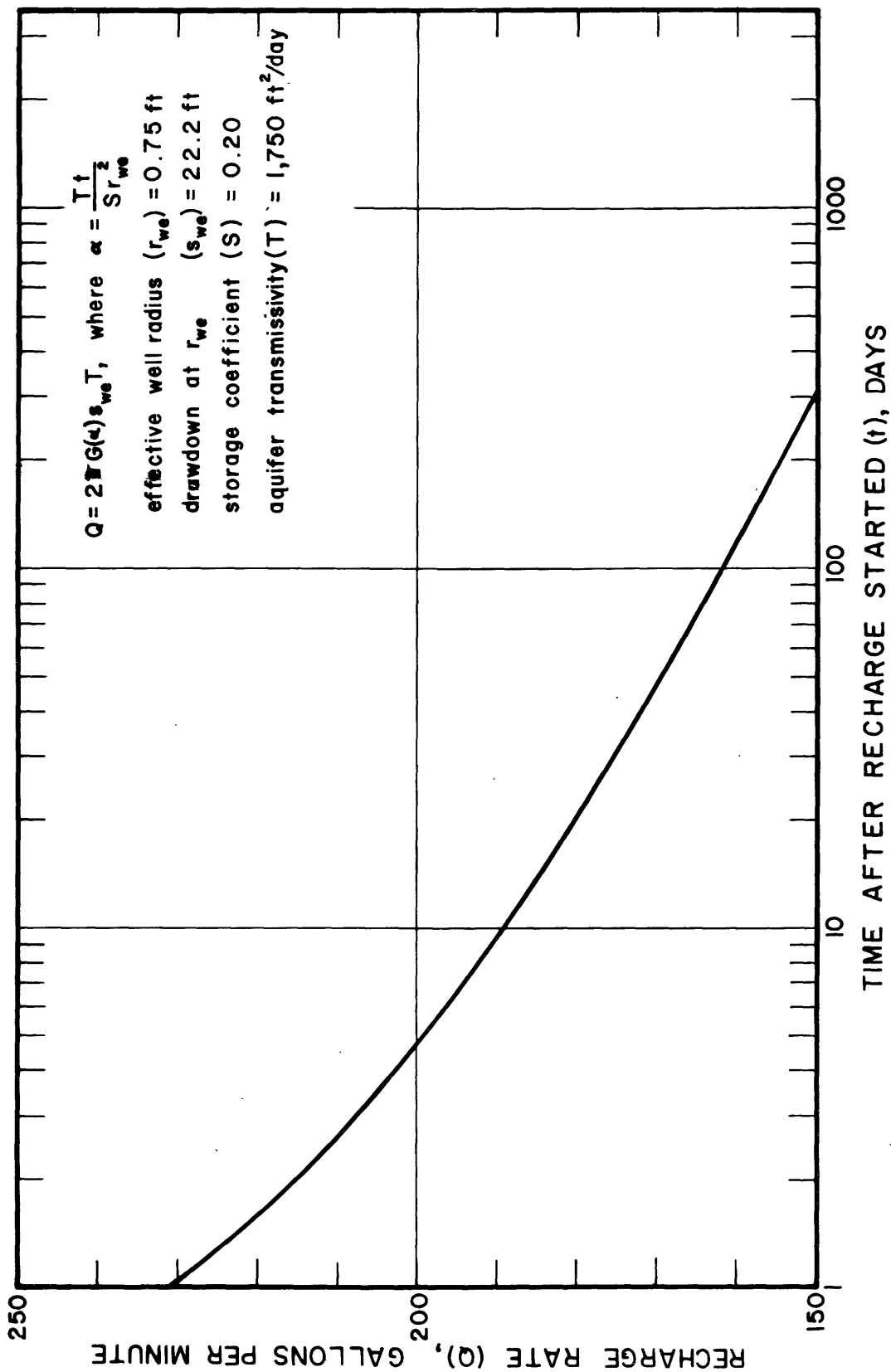


Figure 4. Recharge rate versus time after recharge started through a connector well.

The relations between capture rate and the cone of depression around a connector well are illustrated schematically in figure 5. As described by D. D. Knochenmus (written commun., 1973), for a given set of atmospheric and geologic conditions, capture rate increases with drawdown until at some given drawdown, maximum capture rate occurs. The drawdown associated with the maximum capture rate is the maximum-capture drawdown (s_{mc}), and the radial distance from the well to the point of maximum-capture drawdown is the maximum-capture radius (r_{mc}) of the cone of depression (fig. 5). Thus within the area encompassed by this radius, maximum capture rate occurs; beyond this radius, capture rate decreases with decreasing drawdown.

The drawdown around a single connector well will increase until enough water is captured to sustain flow at a rate determined by the transmissivity of the water-table aquifer, head difference between the two aquifers, well size, and effectiveness of well development. If the maximum capture rate is relatively high, the maximum-capture radius of the cone of depression, and thus the area of maximum capture, will be less than if the maximum capture rate is relatively low (fig. 5). The higher maximum capture rate tends to be offset by the smaller area of maximum capture; as a result, the total amount of water captured, and thus the long-term recharge rate of a single connector well, remains nearly the same regardless of the value of maximum capture rate.

The equations for computing recharge rate of a single connector well, based on the capture method, are given in appendix 2. The equations were developed by Papadopolus and Cooper (S. S. Papadopolus, written commun., 1973). The computed recharge rates for various well diameters and assumed capture rates show that substantial increases in well diameter and capture rate increase recharge rate by only a few percent (table 5). Recharge rate of a 10-in. (25-cm) well would range only from 154 to 165 gpm (9.7 to 10.3 l/s) even with a threefold increase in assumed maximum capture rate. In addition the results on table 5 demonstrate that the maximum-capture radius of the cone of depression decreases with increasing maximum capture rate, as suggested in figure 5.

Maximum capture rate is unknown; the values used in the analysis are based on a reasonable range of values, as estimated by D. D. Knochenmus (written commun., 1973). If a network of connector wells were to be installed, determination of the maximum capture rate as well as other factors affecting recharge rate, would be essential for evaluating the most efficient number and spacing of wells. But because recharge rate of a single connector well varies little with capture rate, an approximate value is sufficient for purposes of this analysis. Drawdown at maximum capture is also unknown and was assumed to be 5 ft (1.5 m). With other factors constant, computed recharge rates varied only a few gallons per minute for a range of maximum-capture drawdown values of 0.1 ft (.03 m) to 10 ft (3 m).

The recharge rate through a connector well would probably differ from that computed, because field conditions are complex and the efficiency of well construction and development is difficult to assess quantitatively.

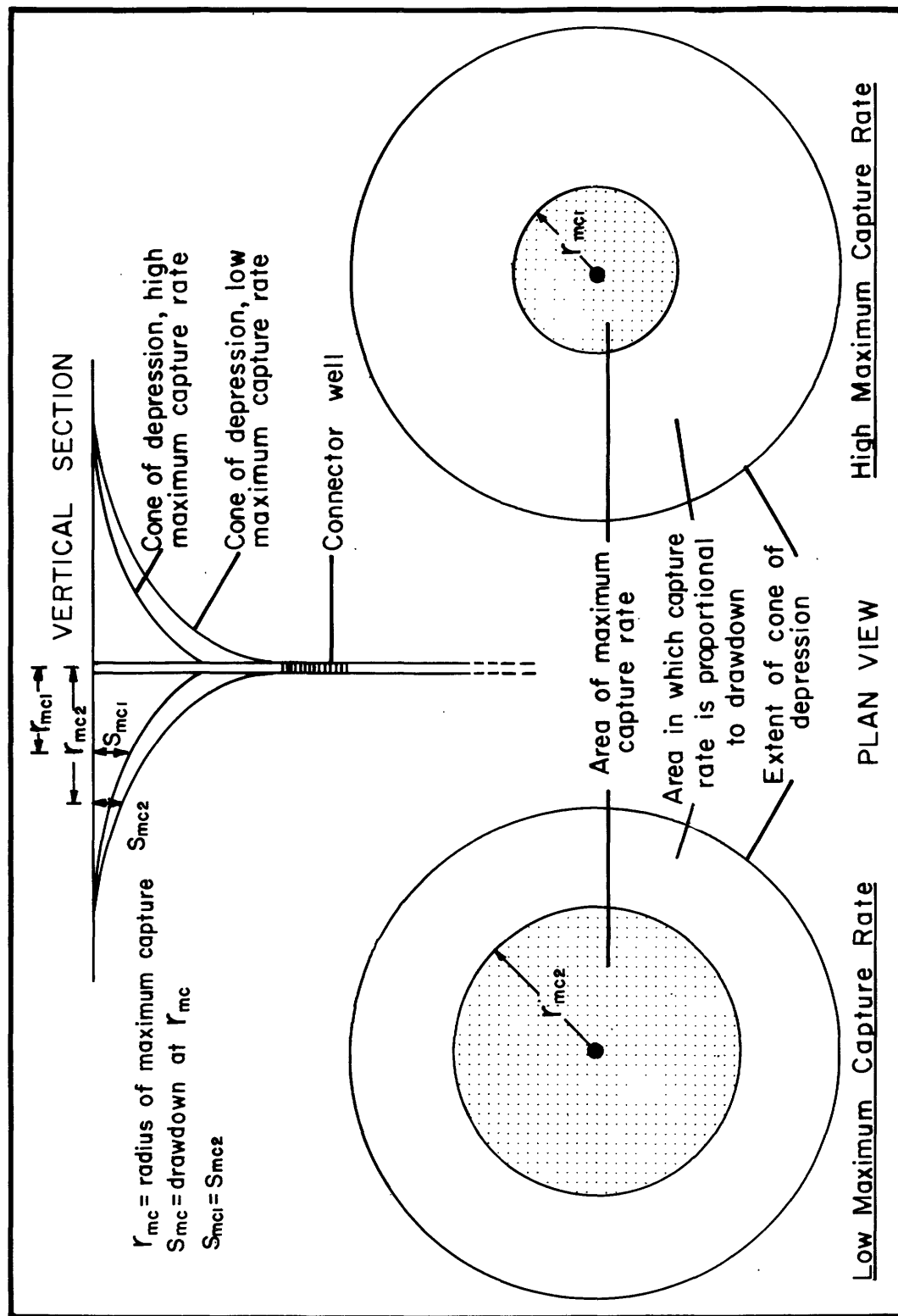


Figure 5. Relation between maximum capture rate and cone of depression around a single connector well.

Table 5.--Estimated recharge rate of a test connector well

Maximum capture rate (ft/yr)	Well diameter (inches)	Effective well radius ¹ (ft)	Maximum-capture radius of cone of depression ² (ft)	Recharge rate (gpm)
0.5	10	0.75	496	154
	14	.92	523	158
	22	1.25	553	164
1.5	10	.75	322	165
	14	.92	341	169
	22	1.25	364	177

¹ Effective well radius assumed to equal well radius plus thickness of filter pack. Filter-pack thickness equals 4 in. (10 mm).

² Maximum-capture radius of cone of depression is the distance from the connector well to the point where drawdown of the water table equals that at which maximum capture is obtained; assumed to be 5 ft (1.5 m) in the analysis.

In the analysis, the sand aquifer was treated as a single, homogeneous isotropic unit. In fact, however, a 5-ft (1.5-m) clay bed hydraulically separates the upper fine sand unit from the lower coarse sand unit. The two units could be treated as separate aquifers and the yield from each unit computed, but because of the uncertainties in the analytical methods, such a refinement is probably not warranted. The water level in the well would drop below the upper fine sand unit, and, during the dry season, even below the medium-coarse sand unit (see fig. 3). Thus the water table adjacent to the well face may be lowered below the tops of the screens, thereby reducing well efficiency.

On the other hand, conditions at the site could be altered to increase both the amount of water available for recharge and the ease with which it can move toward the connector well. These changes, which would result in an increased recharge rate, include installing a system of tiles, flooding the land surface, and perforating the clay layer that separates the sand units.

A radial system of porous tiles installed several feet below land surface, with the connector well at the hub, would facilitate movement of infiltrating surface water or rainwater toward the well. During dry periods the tiles would have no effect because the water table would drop below them.

Flooding the shallow depression probably offers the most promising technique for substantially increasing the amount of water available for recharge. To be effective, the relatively impermeable peat and muck would have to be removed, thereby exposing the underlying sand. The effectiveness would then depend upon the infiltration rate that could be sustained into the upper fine sand unit. Probably this rate would be sufficient to maintain a saturated condition in the sand aquifer. If so, dewatering would be minimized, exposure of well screens to air would be reduced, and the head driving water into the Floridan Aquifer would be increased.

Perforation of the clay bed that separates the two sand units would increase the hydraulic connection between them. This improvement could be accomplished easily and rapidly by drilling through the bed at many points with a power auger. During previous test drilling, the sand underlying the clay bed was observed to move up into the hollow-stem auger under pressure once the clay bed was fully penetrated. Thus with some additional back-filling, drilling would result in a network of sand-filled holes, thereby increasing the hydraulic connection between the upper and lower sand units. Under these conditions, the sand aquifer would respond more nearly as a single unit; the likelihood of having perched conditions above the clay bed would be reduced; and movement of water into the medium-coarse sand unit underlying the clay would be facilitated. These conditions, too, would result in increased recharge.

The amount of recharge that could be attained by employing these various techniques is unknown, and can best be determined through experiments with the test connector well.

Construction

Much of the success of a connector-well system depends upon proper installation of the well itself. Proper construction and installation of well screens and sand or gravel filter packs and proper development of the completed well are essential if theoretical well yields are even to be approached. The relation between the pore size of the filter pack and the grain size of the formation sand is the principal factor that determines the efficiency of a well. If the wrong grain size is used, fine sand may migrate into the filter pack and reduce the yield of the well or cause it to produce sand.

The proposed construction of the test connector well at the DeSoto County grove follows guide lines developed by E. E. Johnson (1966, Chapt.10) and model applications recommended by A. I. Johnson and others (1966). The filter pack and screen criteria are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} D_{30} \text{ filter pack} &\geq 4(D_{30} \text{ aquifer}), \text{ and } 6(D_{30} \text{ aquifer}), \\ C_u \text{ filter pack} &\leq 2.5, \\ \text{Screen opening} &\leq D_{10} \text{ filter pack}, \end{aligned}$$

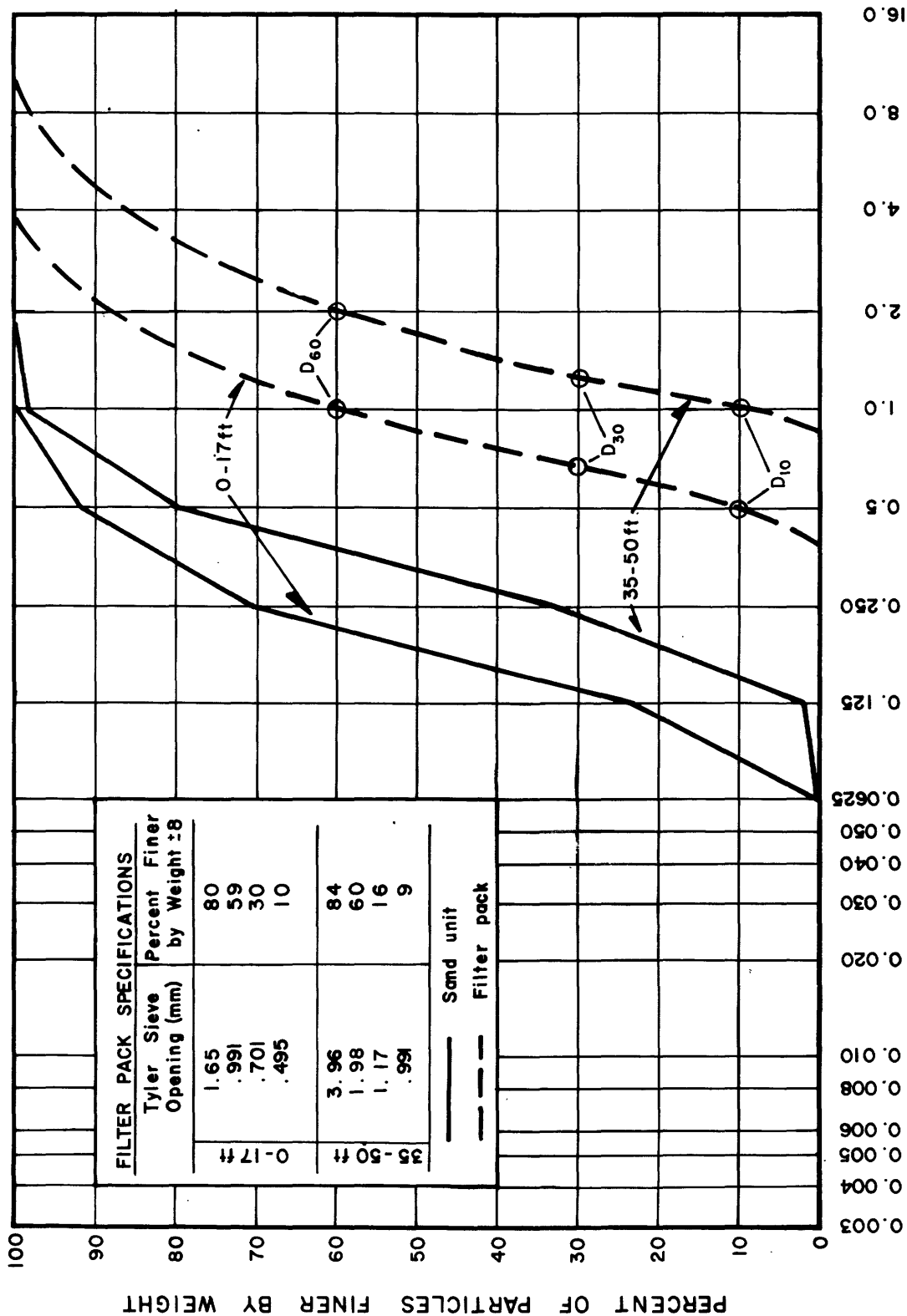
where

$$\begin{aligned} D_{10} &= \text{particle diameter retained on a sieve that allows 10 percent by weight to pass} \\ D_{30} &= \text{particle diameter retained on a sieve that allows 30 percent by weight to pass} \\ D_{60} &= \text{particle diameter retained on a sieve that allows 60 percent by weight to pass} \\ C_u &= \text{uniformity coefficient of filter pack, } D_{60}/D_{10}. \end{aligned}$$

Good well construction and development practices require placement of different filter packs opposite the upper fine grained and the lower coarser grained sand units. The filter packs are sized to the finest material within each unit. Although the permeability of the filter pack is lowered by this approach, migration of fine sand through the pack will be minimal.

Figure 6 shows representative minimum grain-size distribution curves for the upper and lower sand units, and corresponding curves for the proper filter-pack material. Table 6 lists the data used in selecting the well screen and filter pack.

The D_{30} size of the filter pack for each sand unit was determined by multiplying the D_{30} size of the aquifer sand distributions by a factor of 5. Five was chosen as the factor because the sands are moderately uniform (E. E. Johnson, 1966, p. 199). D_{60} and D_{10} points on the filter pack curves were arbitrarily chosen so that the slope between them produced a C_u of less than 2.5. Once these three points (D_{10} , D_{30} , D_{60}) were plotted, a representative curve for the filter pack material was fitted to them.



PARTICLE - SIZE DIAMETER, MILLIMETERS

Figure 6. Grain-size distribution curves for upper and lower sand units and corresponding curves for filter-pack material.

Table 6.--Data for design of test connector-well screen and filter pack

	Upper sand unit	Lower sand unit
Depth interval of unit(ft)	0-17	35-50
D ₃₀ aquifer (mm)	0.14	0.24
Filter Pack:		
D ₃₀ (mm)	.70	1.20
D ₁₀ (mm)	.50	1.00
D ₆₀ (mm)	1.00	2.00
C _u	2.0	2.0
Thickness (in)	4.0	4.0
Screen:		
Slot size (in)	.020	.035
Length (ft)	6.0	12.0
Depth interval (ft)	11-17	38-50
Diameter (in)	8	8

Specifications for grain size of the filter-pack materials given in the inset of figure 6 are determined from their distribution curves. The percent finer by weight values for various Tyler sieve opening sizes are determined from corresponding particle-size diameter values and the filter-pack distribution curves. E. E. Johnson (1966, p. 200) suggests that a reasonable permissible range may be plus or minus 8 percentage points from the determined value. Firms that produce uniformly graded sands have large stocks of these materials and the filter-pack specifications can be met easily. Filter-pack material should be clean with well-rounded grains so that permeability will be increased and hydraulic separation will be minimal as the particles settle around the screen.

Screen specifications for the connector well are determined from analyses of the filter-pack materials and the lithologic logs of the test holes. Screens are designed to be placed opposite the uniform sands of the upper and lower aquifers as shown in figure 7. Screen slot sizes of 0.020 in. (0.5 mm) and 0.035 in. (1.0 mm) were chosen to coincide with the effective sizes (D_{10}) of the upper and lower filter packs, respectively. E. E. Johnson (1966, p. 188) recommends that it is practical to screen only the bottom 33 percent of a homogeneous unconfined aquifer. In a homogeneous artesian aquifer, such as the lower sand unit, about 80 percent is satisfactory. The screen length should be 6 ft (1.8 m) in the upper sand unit and 12 ft (3.6 m) in the lower sand unit. Although dewatering of the lower sand unit may eventually cause it to respond as an unconfined aquifer, subsequent flooding experiments should make maximum use of the 80 percent screen length. A screen diameter of 10 in. (25 cm) was chosen based upon anticipated recharge rates and practical considerations of drilling the well. A filter-pack thickness of 4 in. (10 cm) would increase the effective radius of the well to about 9 in. (23 cm).

Inclusion of an artificial filter pack in the construction of the well probably increases the cost because of additional time and materials required for placement of the filter pack and development of the packed well. However, use of an artificial filter pack at the proposed connector well site has several advantages over a natural filter pack: (1) it will allow installation of screens with larger openings, which, by permitting ground water to enter the well at a lower velocity, will inhibit screen incrustation and reduce well loss; (2) it will allow some vertical drainage, thus facilitating drainage of the upper sand unit; (3) it will allow some latitude in placement of screens opposite the upper and lower sand units, which have gradational stratigraphic contacts; and (4) it will increase the effective radius of the well, thereby increasing the recharge rate by a small percentage.

As shown in figure 7, the connector well is to be cased opposite the secondary aquifer and the overlying and underlying confining beds, and open hole for about 250 ft (76 m) in the Floridan Aquifer. The length of the open-hole section would depend upon the permeability of the upper part of the Floridan Aquifer encountered in drilling; the rock well should be capable of yielding (or accepting) several hundred gallons per minute to ensure against mounding after recharge begins. Proper development of the

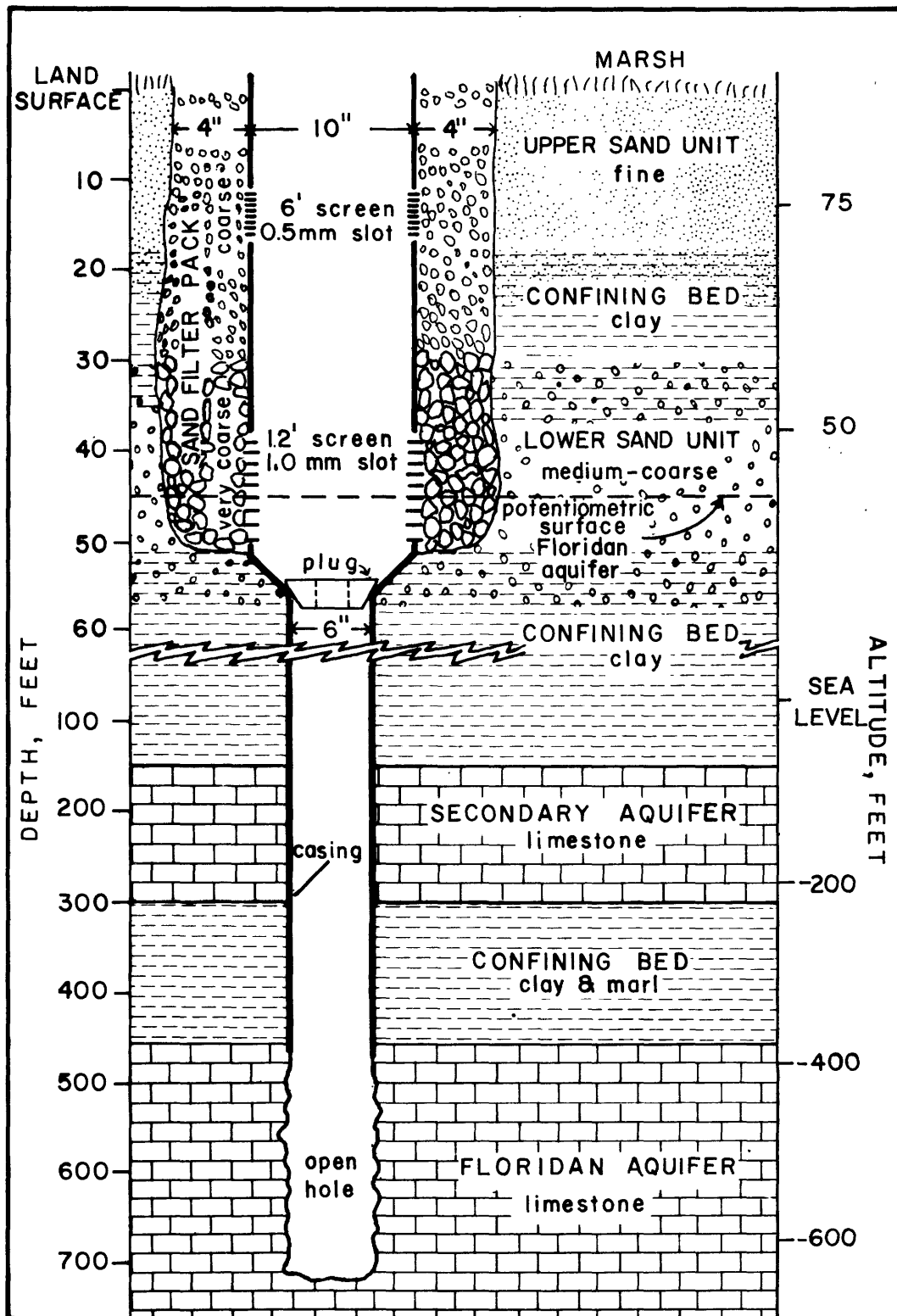


Figure 7. Design of the test connector well and filter pack.

Well is essential in order to obtain maximum yields. Loss of water circulation can occur if the well is open to the highly transmissive limestone during development of the screened sections. Thus, effective development can be accomplished by installing and developing the 10-in. (25-cm) screened parts of the well before drilling the 6-in. (15-cm) lower section.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The sand aquifer that underlies most marshes in a large citrus grove in northeastern DeSoto County consists of about 50 ft (15 m) of principally fine sand. At one marsh, in the northwestern part of the grove, the section includes 15 ft (4.6 m) of medium-coarse sand, and this area was selected as the most suitable test site for a proposed connector well. A properly constructed well at this site would theoretically recharge shallow ground water to the underlying Floridan Aquifer at an initial rate of about 230 gpm (14.5 l/s) but declining to an average rate of about 160 gpm (10.1 l/s).

The selected well construction incorporates well screens 10 inches (25.4 cm) in diameter placed opposite the upper and lower units of the sand aquifer, 6-in. (15-cm) casing through the underlying confining beds and secondary artesian aquifer, and open hole in Floridan Aquifer. A 4-in. (10-cm) filter pack placed around the screens would enhance its efficiency for recharge. Water of the sand aquifer has a low dissolved-solids content, and recharging the Floridan Aquifer with this water will dilute the more mineralized water in the deep aquifer. No pesticides were detected in samples of ground and surface water at the grove in 1972. A program of periodic sampling would detect any deterioration of water quality and provide a basis for assessing the effects of recharge on ground-water quality. The high iron content of the upper sand unit may result in an iron scale build-up if screens are operated.

Well yields could probably be increased substantially above computed values by installing a subsurface system of tiles, surface flooding, and by perforating the 5-ft (1.5-m) clay layer that separates the upper and lower units of the sand aquifer. The effects of these techniques could be assessed quantitatively by proceeding in the following sequence:

- 1) Drill connector well and clear the test site of peat and muck.
- 2) Determine recharge rate.
- 3) Flood the test site.
- 4) Determine recharge rate.
- 5) Drain the test site.
- 6) Install tile system.
- 7) Flood the test site.
- 8) Determine recharge rate.
- 9) Drain test site.
- 10) Puncture the 5-ft (1.5-m) clay bed at many points, using a power auger, and backfill the boreholes with coarse sand.
- 11) Flood the test site.
- 12) Determine recharge rate.

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APPENDIXES

Appendix 1. Lithologic logs of well and test-hole sites

Locations of well and test-hole sites at the grove are shown in figure 2. Log headings show: (1) test-hole or well-set number; (2) location, based on coordinates of 1-minute parallels of latitude and 1-minute meridians of longitude; (3) section, township, and range; and (4) altitude of land surface, either surveyed or taken from $7\frac{1}{2}$ -minute topographic maps with 5-foot contour intervals. Each observation well is constructed of plastic pipe 2 in. (5 cm) in diameter, and is finished with a 1.5-ft (0.5-m) steel screen, 1.25 in. (3.18 cm) in diameter and 60 mesh.

Grain-size classification is based on the Wentworth scale. Color description is from field comparison of samples with the standard Geologic Society of America rock-color chart.

Well Set 2

2S 271732N0814030.1
 2D 271732N0814030.2
 NW¼ 1-37S-26E

Altitude of land surface, 89.0 feet
 Well depths:
 2S = 22.5 feet
 2D = 46.0 feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-0.5	Peat
0.5-5	Sand, fine, moderate-brown
5-13	Sand, fine, light-olive-gray
13-26	Sand, medium to coarse, clayey, some phosphate grains and shell fragments, light-olive-gray.
26-31	Clay, stiff, greenish-gray
31-38	Sand, coarse, clay matrix, some phosphate grains, greenish-gray
38-54	Sand, coarse, well sorted, greenish-gray
54-65	Sand, fine to medium, clay matrix, olive-gray
65-75	Sand, fine, clayey, dark-greenish-gray
75-84	Sand, medium, stiff clay matrix, dark-greenish-gray

Well Set 3

3S 271729N0814030.2
 3D 271729N0814030.1
 NW¼ 1-37S-26E

Altitude of land surface, 87.7 feet

Well depths:

3S = 11 feet

3D = 42 feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-2	Peat
2-16	Sand, fine, moderate-to pale-brown
16-26	Sand, medium to coarse, clayey, some phosphate grains and shell fragments, light-olive-gray
26-31	Clay, stiff, greenish-gray
31-37	Sand, medium to coarse, clay matrix, some phosphate grains, greenish-gray
37-43	Sand, coarse, well sorted, greenish-gray

Well Set 4

4S 271728N0814030.3
 4D 271728N0814030.2
 4 271728N0814030.1
 NW¼ 1-37S-26E

Altitude of land surface, 87.7 feet
 Well depths:
 4S = 11 feet
 4D = 38 feet
 4 = 65 feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-2.5	Peat
2.5-17	Sand, fine, pale-brown
17-25	Sand, medium to coarse, clayey, some phosphate grains and shell fragments, light-olive-gray
25-31	Clay, stiff, some shell fragments, light-greenish-gray
31-35	Sand, medium to coarse, clay matrix, some phosphate grains, greenish-gray
35-45	Sand, coarse, well-sorted, greenish-gray
45-52	Sand, medium to coarse, light-olive-gray
52-65	Sand, medium to coarse, clayey, dark-greenish-gray

Well Set 5

5S 271728N0814030.5

Altitude of land surface, 87.7 feet

5D 271728N0814030.4

Well depths:

NW¼ 1-37S-26E

5S = 11 feet

5D = 38 feet

Depth below
land surface (feet)

Lithology

0-3	Peat
3-17	Sand, fine, pale-brown
17-25	Sand, medium to coarse, clayey, some phosphate grains and shell fragments, light-olive-gray
25-30	Clay, stiff, some shell fragments, light-greenish-gray
30-35	Sand, medium to coarse, clay matrix, some phosphate grains, greenish-gray
35-38	Sand, coarse, well-sorted, greenish-gray

Test hole 5

271336N0814000
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 25-37S-26E

Altitude of land surface, 80± feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-3	Sand, fine, road fill
3-6	Peat, sandy
6-10	Sand, fine to medium, dark-yellowish-brown
10-15	Sand, medium to coarse, dark-yellowish-brown
15-20	Sand, fine to medium, dark-yellowish-brown
20-25	Sand, medium to coarse, dark-yellowish-brown
25-32	Sand, medium to coarse, clayey, dark-yellowish-brown
32-42	Sand, coarse, clayey, dark-greenish-gray
42-49	Clay, stiff, dark-greenish-gray

Test hole 6

271334N0813957
SE¼ 25-37S-26E

Altitude of land surface, 80± feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-3	Sand, fine, fill
3-4	Peat, sandy
4-15	Sand, fine, organic matter, black
15-20	Sand, medium to coarse, dark-yellowish-brown
20-25	Sand, very fine to fine, dark-yellowish-brown
25-30	Sand, coarse to very coarse, phosphate grains, dark-yellowish-brown
30-35	Sand, coarse to very coarse, clayey, phosphate grains, dark-yellowish-brown
35-40	Sand, very fine, clayey, dark-greenish-gray
40-51.5	Clay, silty, with fine sand laminae, dark-greenish-gray

Test hole 7

271337N0813807
SE¼ 29-37S-27E

Altitude of land surface 84± feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-3	Sand, fine; road fill
3-14	Sand, fine, dusky brown
14-17	Clay, interbedded sand lenses, dark-greenish-gray
17-21	Sand, very fine to fine, dark-yellowish-brown
21-23	Sand, medium to coarse, dark-yellowish-brown
23-40	Sand, medium to coarse, clayey, phosphate grains, olive-gray
40-46	Clay, sandy, phosphate grains, light-olive-gray
46-56	Clay, sandy, dark-greenish-gray

Test hole 8

271324N0813758
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 29-37S-27E

Altitude of land surface, 82± feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-14	Sand, fine; road fill
4-14	Sand, fine to medium, dark-yellowish-brown
14-40	Sand, coarse, clayey, some phosphate grains and shell fragments, light-olive - gray
40-49	clay, sandy, plastic, greenish-gray

Test hole 9

271448N0813732
NW¼ 21-37S-27E

Altitude of land surface, 87± feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-4	Sand, fine; fill
4-15	Sand, very fine to fine, dusky-yellowish-brown
15-25	Sand, medium to coarse, pale-yellowish-brown
25-29	Sand, coarse to very coarse, clayey, phosphate grains, pale-yellowish-brown
29-33	Clay, sandy, green
33-40	Sand, coarse, clayey, phosphate grains, greenish-gray
40-50	Sand, fine, clayey, greenish-gray
50-58	Clay, sandy, dark-greenish-gray

Test hole 10

271420N0813547
SE¼ 22-37S-27E

Altitude of land surface, 87± feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-4	Sand, fine, some peat; road fill
4-8	Peat, sandy
8-15	Sand, fine to medium, pale-brown
15-31	Sand, fine, dark-yellowish-brown
31-38	Clay, stiff, dark-yellowish-brown
38-43	Sand, coarse clayey, grayish-black
43-54	Clay, sandy, some shell fragments, greenish-gray

Test hole 11

271642N0813622
NW¼ 10-37S-27E

Altitude of land surface, 90± feet

Depth below land surface (feet)	Lithology
0-4	Sand, fine, light brown, road fill
4-10	Sand, very fine to fine, light-brown
10-23	Sand, fine, dark-yellowish-brown
23-24	Clay, sandy, dusky-brown
24-31	Sand, fine to medium with clay lenses, moderate-yellowish-brown
31-40	Sand, medium to very coarse, clayey, phosphate grains and shell fragments, olive-gray
40-50	Sand, as above but greater percent clay
50-59	Clay, sandy, dark-greenish-gray

Appendix 2. Equations for computing recharge rate of single connector well.

The following equations were derived by Papadopoulos and Cooper (S. S. Papadopoulos, written communication, 1973) to describe drawdown in the vicinity of a well that derives its discharge from capture of evapotranspiration and/or increased infiltration. For the derivation, it was assumed that the aquifer is homogeneous, isotropic, and infinite in extent; that steady-state conditions prevail (that is, drawdown in the well and the aquifer is constant and well discharge equals capture); that the rate of capture varies linearly with drawdown in areas where drawdown is less than a certain magnitude, s_{mc} ; and that the capture rate is at a constant maximum rate where drawdown is equal to or greater than s_{mc} . In addition, it is assumed that the maximum drawdown is a small fraction of the aquifer thickness. Under these conditions, the equations for drawdown and discharge are:

$$\frac{s_{we}}{s_{mc}} = 1 + \ln \frac{r_{mc}}{r_{we}} \left\{ \frac{a^2 r_{mc}^2}{2} + \beta \frac{K_1(\beta)}{K_0(\beta)} \right\} - \frac{a^2 r_{mc}^2}{4} \left(1 - \frac{r_{we}^2}{r_{mc}^2} \right)$$

and

$$Q = \pi r_{mc}^2 C_o + 2 \pi T s_{mc} \beta \frac{K_1(\beta)}{K_0(\beta)}$$

where

- C_o = maximum capture rate, in ft/day;
- $K_0(\beta)$ = zero-order modified Bessel function of the second kind;
- $K_1(\beta)$ = first-order modified Bessel function of the second kind;
- b = thickness of aquifer, in ft;
- Q = recharge rate, in ft³/day;
- r_{mc} = radial distance to the point where drawdown equals s_{mc} , in ft;
- r_{we} = effective well radius, in ft;
- s_{mc} = drawdown at which C_o reaches its maximum, in ft;
- s_{we} = drawdown at r_{we} , in ft;

T = transmissivity of aquifer, in ft²/day;

$$a = \sqrt{\frac{C_o}{T s_{mc}}};$$

$$\beta = a r_{mc}$$

The first equation on the previous page may be solved for r_{mc} by preparing a plot of s_{we}/s_{mc} versus r_{mc} for the assumed or known values of C_o , r_{we} , and T . This graph may be entered at the known or estimated value of s_{we}/s_{mc} to determine r_{mc} . With the value of r_{mc} determined, the discharge Q may be computed from the second equation.

The assumption that drawdown is small relative to aquifer thickness is not always well met for connector wells, and can be avoided by replacing s_{we} and s_{mc} by s'_{we} and s'_{mc} , where $s'_{we} = s_{we} - \frac{s_{we}^2}{2b}$ and $s'_{mc} = s_{mc} - \frac{s_{mc}^2}{2b}$. Under these conditions, however, it must be assumed that the capture rate is linearly related to s' , rather than s , where $s' = s - \frac{s^2}{2b}$, for values of s' less than s'_{mc} .

The equations thus become:

$$\frac{s'_{we}}{s'_{mc}} = 1 + \ln \frac{r_{mc}}{r_{we}} \left\{ \frac{a'^2 r_{mc}^2}{2} + \beta' \frac{K_1 (\beta')}{K_o (\beta')} \right\} -$$

$$\frac{a'^2 r_{mc}^2}{4} \left(1 - \frac{r_{we}^2}{r_{mc}^2} \right)$$

$$\text{and } Q = \pi r_{mc}^2 C_o + 2 \pi T s'_{mc} \beta' \frac{K_1 (\beta')}{K_o (\beta')}$$

$$\text{where } a' = \sqrt{\frac{C_o}{T s'_{mc}}};$$

$$\beta' = a' r_{mc};$$

and other values are as previously described.

These equations may be solved for the radius of maximum capture, r_{mc} , and discharge, Q , in the same manner as described above.

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