



# Sustainable Water Supply for Neighbours and Agriculture

Indian River Farms appreciates the opportunity to share information regarding our holding ponds and respond to questions arising from a recent tour. Unfortunately, we were not invited to participate or contacted for information. As a result, many statements were incorrect. We welcome this opportunity to share the facts and set the record straight.

The Island is our home and we are committed to being good stewards of the land and the water that sustains communities and agriculture.

We understand there may be more questions and encourage you to contact us at [info@indianriverfarms.com](mailto:info@indianriverfarms.com)

## GROUNDWATER USE on PEI

Type	Sub-Type	Water Use (m <sup>3</sup> /year)	Percentage of Total Fresh Groundwater Use
Drinking water	Municipal residential	5,700,000	16.0%
	Municipal industrial/commercial	5,600,000	15.7%
	Private central supply	1,000,000	2.8%
	Rural residential use	10,000,000	28.0%
Industrial	Food processing	3,400,000	9.5%
	Car washing	100,000	0.3%
	Fresh water for aquaculture	3,800,000	10.6%
	Other industrial uses	50,000	0.1%
Irrigation	Agriculture	400,000	1.1%
	Golf course	160,000	0.4%
Livestock		2,000,000	5.6%
Other fresh water use	Fire protection	occasional use	
	Heat transfer	3,500,000	9.8%
Total		35,710,000	100.0%
Salt water for aquaculture		4,500,000	

Source: Province of Prince Edward Island

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/publication/summary-groundwater-usage-pe>

# PONDS AND WELLS AT INDIAN RIVER FARMS



## SITING

- Indian River Farms voluntarily requests a site visit by the Department of Environment, Water and Climate Change as well as the Department of Agriculture and Land for any proposed pond.
- In addition, we have contracted independent professional hydrogeologists to verify the responsible placement of ponds and wells to ensure the best environmental practices and sustainability. To date over \$100,000 has been spent on this important expertise.
- Indian River Farms has voluntarily established buffers around residential and commercial neighbours.
- Where trees must be cut to build a pond, Indian River Farms is planting 2 trees to replace each one that has been cut.



## BUILDING

Indian River Farms' ponds are designed by professional, certified engineers with both the environment and pond stability in mind. This includes protecting against erosion and ensuring the ongoing health of the aquifer.

**Irrigation on PEI is supplemental to natural rainfall. Irrigation is used on an as needed basis depending on the weather and the life stage of the crop.**



## MONITORING

- Ponds are monitored 24/7 while irrigation is underway.
- Monthly reporting of high capacity wells, which have been in place for up to 20 years is submitted to the Province.
- Daily monitoring of well level sensors, water usage, & soil moisture in field
- The Province also has a monitoring well on our property that continuously monitors water use and aquifer levels. This has been ongoing for over 20 years.

# PONDS AND WELLS AT INDIAN RIVER FARMS



## NEW TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE WATER USE

- Indian River Farms has invested in new technology to ensure there is no wastage of water and that we are using the least amount required. This includes:
  - Diminishing usage of water guns that require more water pressure and increased evaporation
  - Upgraded nozzles
- New technology to measure soil moisture at the root level and determine exact water requirement based on life stage of plant.



**0.1%** of all PEI groundwater is used on ALL PEI irrigated process potatoes. (not just Indian River Farms).

Typically, Indian River Farms uses irrigation during **8 weeks** of the summer (mid-July to mid-September). All these irrigation operations are in full compliance with all environmental and water limit regulations.



## **OTHER QUESTIONS FROM LAST WEEK'S TOUR**

**Is it true Indian River Farms and Long River Farms are over the IRAC land holdings limits?**

NO. We are in full compliance.

**Is it true that waste and/or liquid fertilizer is being pumped through the ponds into fields?**

NO

**Is it true that these ponds are 20 feet deep?**

NO. The ponds are typically 13 feet in depth.

**Is it true that these ponds hold 20 million gallons?**

NO. Ponds range from 2 to 6-million-gallon capacity and are actively used for 8 out of 52 weeks/year. The water used by Indian River Farms account for less than 0.1% of the total ground water supply.

**Is Indian River Farms putting a new well on every parcel of land it owns?**

NO

**Is Indian River Farms sub-dividing land it owns to create more PIDs to build more ponds.**

NO