May/ June 2005 Newsletter Tips & Suggestions:

Taking a Second Look at Your Performance Reports

When a meter's consumption is too far off the annual budget.

You are probably familiar with the Actual Use Vs. Budget bar graphs offered on the Landscape Performance Certification Program website. The Program uses these graphs so you can easily see how much over- or under-budget your meters were last month, or last year. As you know, the budgets are calculated using the recorded area measurement for every meter. By looking at the percentage the meter is over- or under-budget during a 12-month period, we may see signs that the site is under- or over-measured. We understand that some sites may need more water than allocated in the budget during certain parts of the year. Conversely, other times these same sites can do just fine with less water. Overall, if a site stays within the budget (or very close to it) over a12-month period, we consider that site to be water-efficient. The following graphs are examples of reports for meters that are over-, under-, and close-to-the-budget.

Over-watering Meter

Chart 1 is an example report for a meter that is recording a great deal of over-watering.

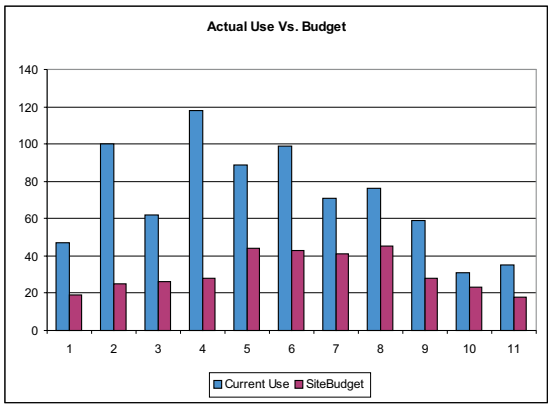

Chart 1: Over-watering

As you can see, this meter over-watered during February and April, but began to follow the budget curve during the fall. When we took a closer look at the numbers for 2004, we recorded the monthly percentage of over-watering and calculated the annual percentage of the over-watering level (in this case - 138%). We then plotted it again on Chart 2:

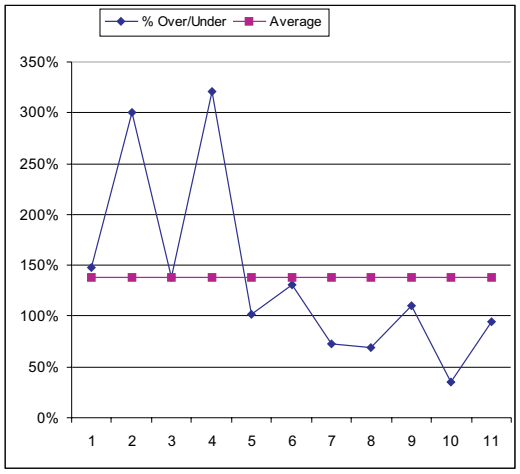

Chart 2: Over-watering

What do YOU want to know?

Send questions related to landscape water use and runoff reduction to:

ConserVision
Fax: (949) 215-6184
or e-mail:

julio@econservision.com

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Chart 2 shows that even when this meter was under the annual average, it was still over-watering between 35% and 111%. There are two possible explanations: (1) the meter is truly over-watering; or (2) the area measurement reported is under-measured.

Under-watering Meter

The other side of the spectrum is the meter that is over-measured (Chart 3):

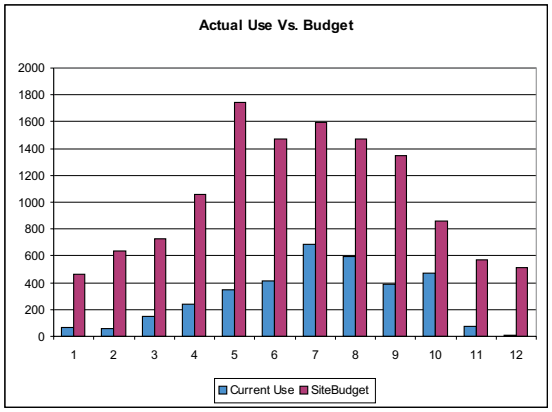

Chart 3: Under-watering

In this example, you can clearly see the large gap between the budget and the current use. Based on the Actual Use Curve, it appears like the landscaper is following the weather pattern.

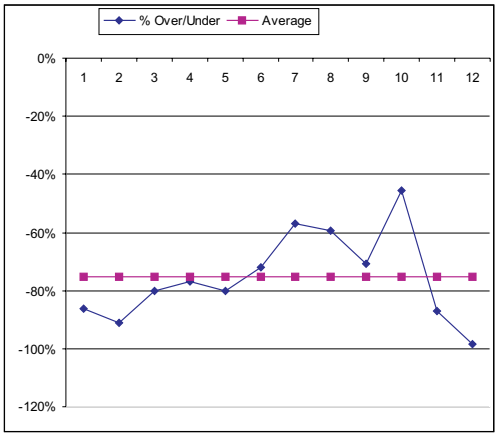

Chart 4: Under-watering

Looking at the percentages on Chart 4, we see that the annual average sits at -75%, and way above is the 0% mark, where "at budget" points should rest. In this case the conclusion is a little clearer: since this level of under-watering would have killed the plant material, it is obvious that the meter's coverage area was over-estimated.

Watering Close to Budget

Chart 5 shows a sample of a meter performing, on average, close to the budget.

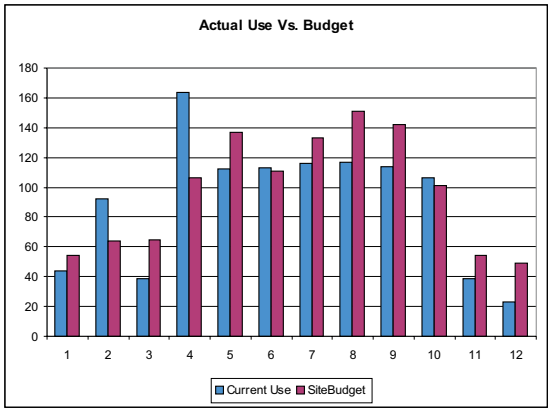

Chart 5: Close to the budget

This landscaper was over-watering in the spring; however, consumption was kept close to budget the rest of the year. Chart 6 has an average of only -9% of under-watering.

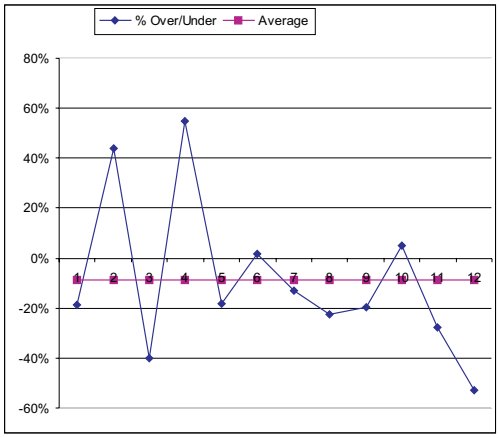

Chart 6: Close to the budget