



EDIBLE FACTS

WATER TABLE

Our foodshed's most precious nonrenewable resource, by the numbers

BY ELIZABETH LIMBACH

<p>Percentage of the human body that is made up of water:</p> <h1>55–78</h1>	<h1>70%</h1> <p>Amount of the world's fresh water used for agriculture In California: 90%</p>	<p>People in the world without access to clean water: 780 million</p> <p>Number of people who die of waterborne illnesses worldwide: about the same as the population of Los Angeles</p>		
<p>Gallons of water it takes to grow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tomato: 3.3 A head of broccoli: 5.4 One slice of bread: 10 One glass of cow's milk: 30 One glass of soy milk: 9 One cup of coffee: 37 One hamburger: 634 	<h1>1,320</h1> <p>Gallons of water that go into producing a daily average American diet</p>	<p>Number of Californians who rely on contaminated groundwater: 21 million</p> <p>\$1,400 vs. \$0.50 per year Annual cost of drinking only bottled vs. tap water</p>		
<p>Days a person can live without water:</p> <h1>3</h1>	<p>400 billion Total gallons of water used in the U.S. per day</p>	<p>Average daily per-person water use in America: 100 gallons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Fresno: 250 gallons In Hollister: 162 gallons In Santa Cruz: 95 gallons On the Monterey Peninsula (the lowest of any comparable community in the state of California): 58 gallons In Europe: 50 gallons In sub-Saharan Africa: 2–5 gallons 	<h1>#1</h1> <p>Ranking of toilet flushing among activities in which individual Americans use the most water — and —</p> <p>Ranking of outdoor use among activities in which American households use the most water — and —</p> <p>Ranking of agriculture as cause of pollution in our rivers and lakes</p>	<p>Years that wells in Springfield Terrace, Monterey County, have shown nitrate levels above the amount considered safe:</p> <h1>27</h1>
<p>Number of disposable water bottles used by Americans each year</p> <h1>167</h1> <p>Number of those bottles that go to landfills rather than being recycled</p> <h1>129</h1>				

The last time California was this dry: **half a millennium ago**