

Irrigation Scheduling

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What is Irrigation Scheduling?

- Programming the timing and amount of water applied on a crop.
- Based on:
 - Soil water content and soil capacity to store water.
 - Evapotranspiration rate of the crop at its' current crop growth stage.
 - Irrigation System capacity and efficiency

Principles of Scheduling



Understand your SOIL

Texture/Profile

**Available Water Holding
Capacity (AWHC)**



Know your CROP

Daily Evapotranspiration

Effective rooting depth

Growth Stage

Ability to withstand
water deficit



Update your IRRIGATION SYSTEM

**Percent Chart current
and correct**

- Pressure
- Flow
- End tower speed

Center Pivot Focus, but principles apply to Furrow, Sideroll, Flood and others



Soil Water Terminology

Saturation Water: is the soil water content where all soil pores are filled and is the water that readily percolates or drains out from the root zone by gravitational force

Field Capacity (FC): is the amount of water that remains in the soil after all the excess water at saturation has been drained out. If sandy soils are allowed to drain for approximately 24 hours after saturation, field capacity is reached. Heavy soils may take longer and up to 3 days.

“Permanent Wilting Point” (PWP): When plants take up all the **Available Water** for a given soil, soil cannot supply any water to keep plants from dying.

Available Water Holding Capacity (AWHC or AWC): is the water held between field capacity and permanent wilting point.

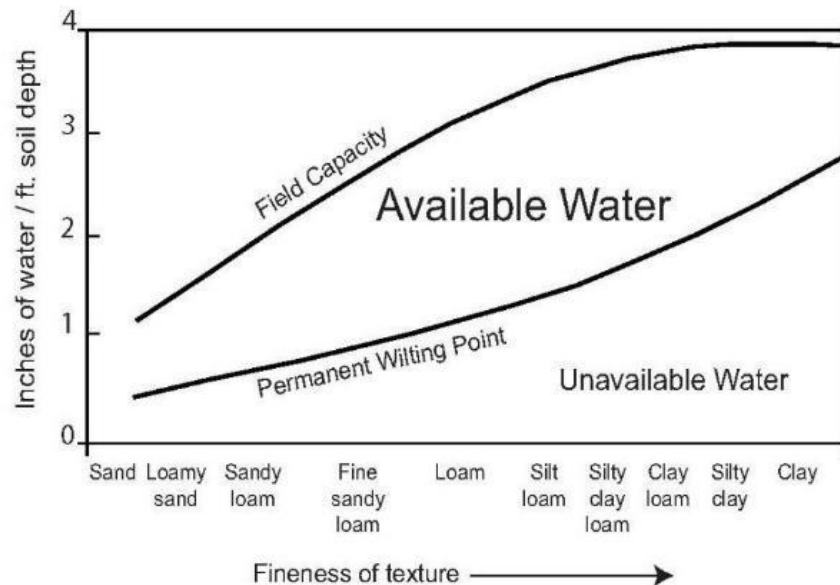
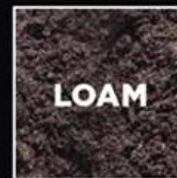


Figure 1. General relationship between soil moisture and texture. Ohio Agronomy Guide, 14th edition, Bulletin 472-05



SAND



LOAM



CLAY



SILT

AVAILABLE WATER CAPACITY BY SOIL TEXTURE

Soil texture is the proportion of small, medium, and large particles (clay, silt, and sand, respectively) in a specific soil mass. For example, a coarse soil is a sand or loamy sand, a medium soil is a loam, silt loam, or silt, and a fine soil is a sandy clay, silty clay, or clay.

Texture	Inches of water storage per foot of soil depth
.....	
Coarse sand	.25-.75
Fine sand	.75-1.00
Loamy sand	1.10-1.20
.....	
Sandy loam	1.25-1.40
Fine sandy loam	1.50-2.00
Silt loam	2.00-2.50
.....	
Silty clay loam	1.80-2.00
Silty clay	1.50-1.70
Clay	1.20-1.50

AWHC and Texture

Dynamic AWHC

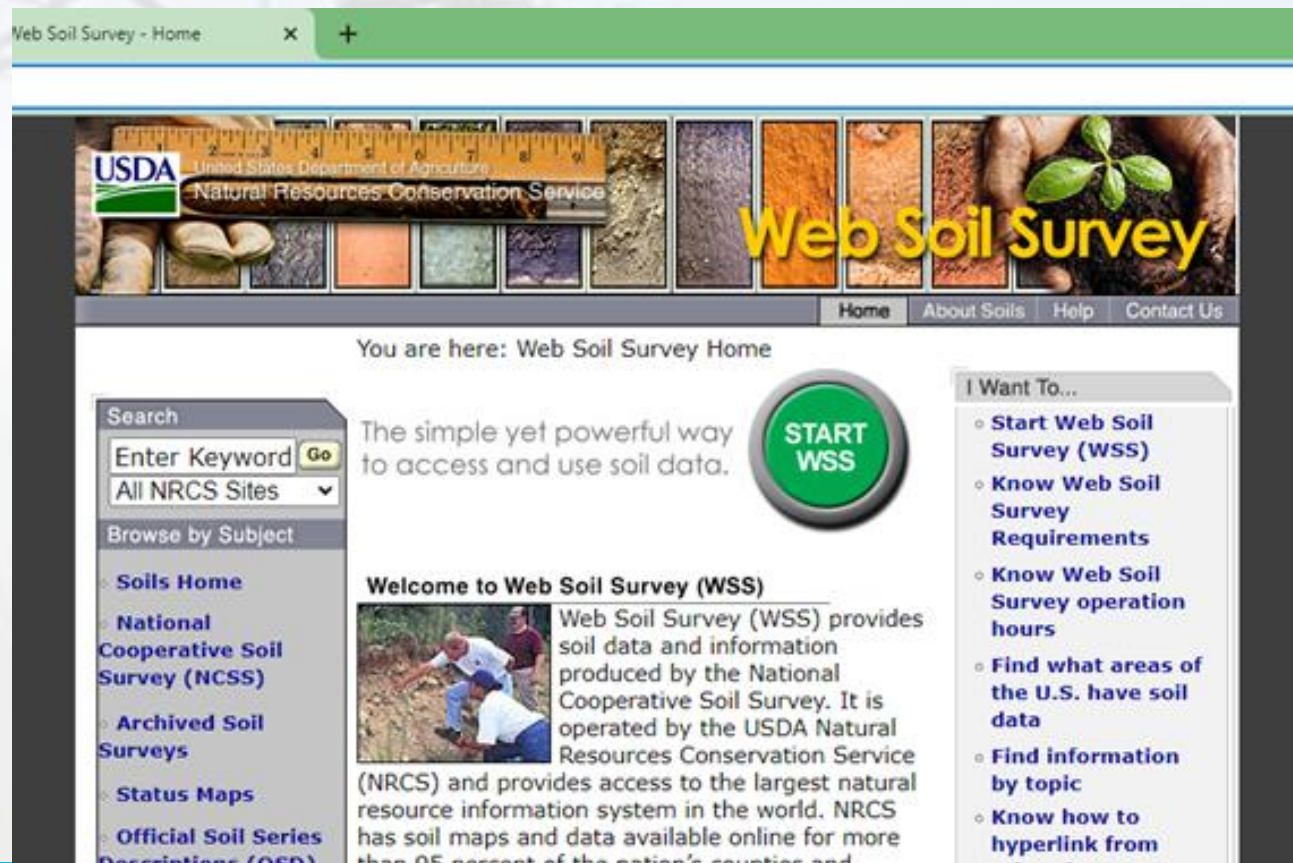
Soil Organic Matter 

Compaction 

Salinity/Sodium affected soils 

Web Soil Survey (WSS)

<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>



The screenshot shows the Web Soil Survey (WSS) homepage. At the top, there is a green header bar with the text "Web Soil Survey - Home" and a search icon. Below the header is a banner image featuring a ruler, soil samples, and a small plant, with the text "Web Soil Survey" in large yellow letters. The banner also includes the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service".

Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: "Home", "About Soils", "Help", and "Contact Us".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- You are here: Web Soil Survey Home**
- Search:** A search box with the text "Enter Keyword" and a "Go" button. Below it is a dropdown menu labeled "All NRCS Sites".
- Browse by Subject:** A list of links: "Soils Home", "National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS)", "Archived Soil Surveys", "Status Maps", and "Official Soil Series Descriptions (OSD)".
- The simple yet powerful way to access and use soil data.** A large green circular button with the text "START WSS".
- Welcome to Web Soil Survey (WSS)** A section with a photo of people working in a field and text describing the WSS: "Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and..."
- I Want To...** A list of links: "Start Web Soil Survey (WSS)", "Know Web Soil Survey Requirements", "Know Web Soil Survey operation hours", "Find what areas of the U.S. have soil data", "Find information by topic", and "Know how to hyperlink from..."

Calculating Available Water for a given crop

$AWHC = \text{Root Depth (inches)} \times AWHC \text{ (in/in)}$

AWHC was just explored through Web Soil Survey

What do I need to Know to Schedule Irrigations

1. Management Allowed Deficit: MAD for my crop's growth stage

2. ET for the time period under consideration

Sources:

- www.coagmet.colostate.edu
- Agro Engineering
- Open ET

3. Soil Moisture Status at this moment

4. System characteristics, Efficiencies

Management Allowed Deficit-MAD

- ❑ MAD = The portion of the water that a crop plant can extract from the soil without causing more than acceptable harm (Yield and/or Quality)
- ❑ MAD depends on: Soil type, Crop, Stage of growth

Available Water(AW) = AVAILABLE WATER CAPACITY x ROOTING DEPTH

MAD = % allowable deficit x AW

- Alfalfa: 50%
- Potatoes and vegetable crops: 25-35%
- Small grains: Early boot to flag: 50%, flag to early fill: 40%, Late: 60%
- Sorghum, Millet, Sorghum Sudan and C4 Grasses: 50-60%
- Corn: 50% except 40% during tasseling
- Soybeans, Dry Beans: 40 to 50% except 35-40% during flowering
- Irrigated pasture: 50-60%

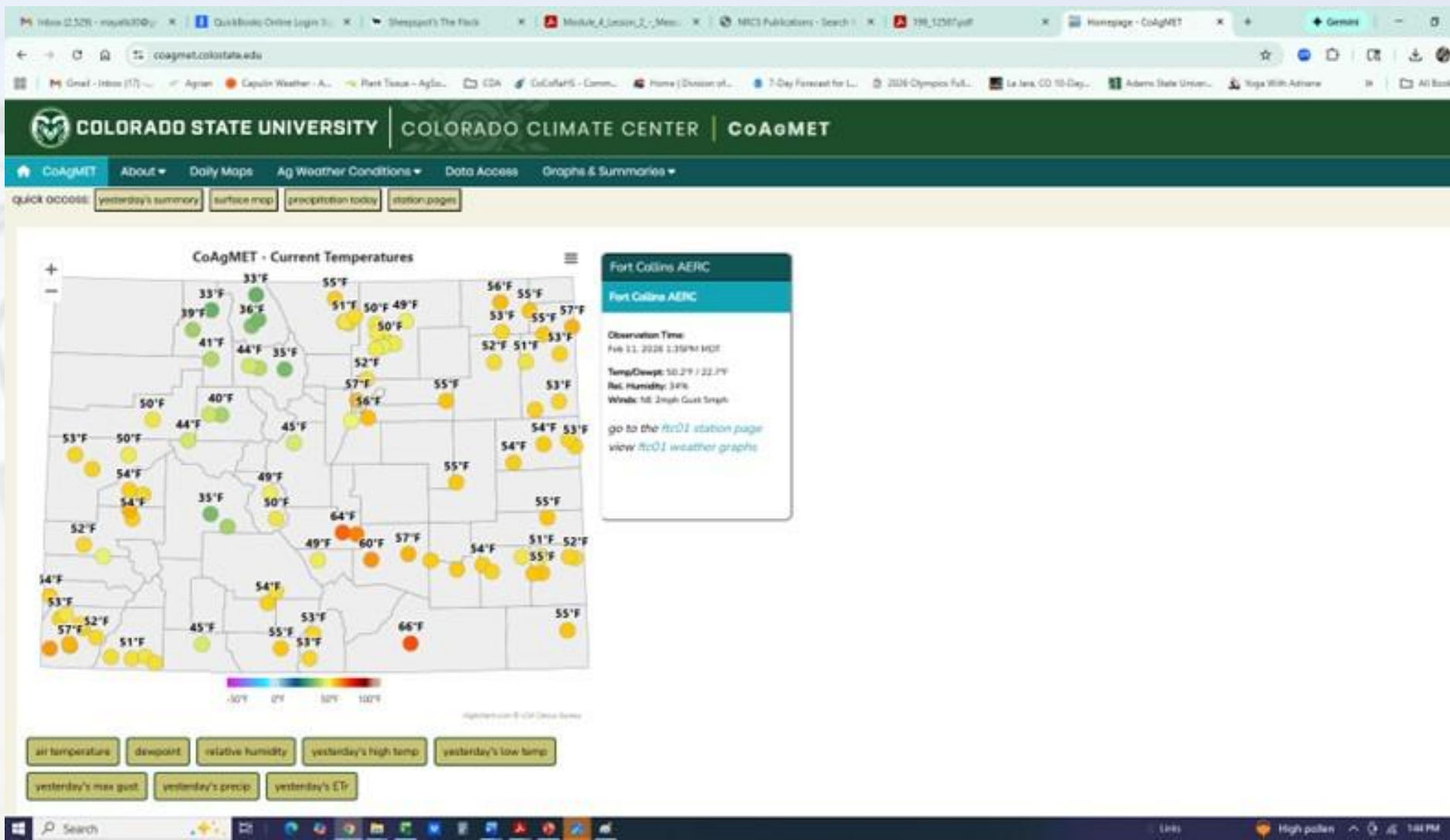
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Using CoAgMet: <https://coagmet.colostate.edu/>



Select your dates and Stations

Log in to... | Sheepshead's The Rock | Module 4 Lesson 2... | NRC3 Publications - Search | 199_12367.pdf | CoAgMET Crop ET Access

pin/extended_str_form.pl

Weather - A... | Plant Tissue - Appl... | CDA | CoColoHS - Comm... | Home | Division of... | 7-Day Forecast for L... | 2026 Olympics FuL... | La Jara, CO 10-Day... | Adams State Univer...

IVERSITY | COLORADO CLIMATE CENTER | CoAgMET

g Weather Conditions ▾ Data Access Graphs & Summaries ▾

S

Select a Date:
Use as
☐ end date ☒ start date

Year	Month	Day	# to do
2026	January	20	09
2025	February	21	10
2024	March	22	11
2023	April	23	12
2022	May	24	13
2021	June	25	14
2020	July	26	15
2019	August	27	20
2018	September	28	30
2017	October	29	60
2016	November	30	90
2015	December	31	120

Select Days:
Select Stations:
Hold down the control key to select more than one station

Station	Irrigation Status
pkh01 - Peckham	Fully Irrigated
pkn01 - Pankin Center	Partially Irrigated
pkr01 - Parker†	Dryland
prn01 - Penrose	Fully Irrigated
ptv01 - Platteville†	Unknown
rfd01 - Rocky Ford, AVRC	Fully Irrigated
rfd02 - CSU Expt Sta Rocky Ford NRCS†	Fully Irrigated
san01 - San Acacio	Partially Irrigated
sbt01 - Seibert	Dryland
scm01 - Sand Creek Massacre HS	Unknown
sls01 - Salda	Fully Irrigated
slh01 - Silt	Fully Irrigated
stg01 - Sterling	Partially Irrigated
str01 - Stratton	Dryland

Defaults to current date if left unselected

Select Crops and Planting Dates:
Check:
☒ Alfalfa (Green Up Date) m 04 d 24
☐ Corn (Plant Date) m 04 d 20

Links 5

Select your crops and enter plant and green-up dates

Select Crops and Planting Date:

Check:

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alfalfa (Green Up Date) | m | <input type="text" value="04"/> | d | <input type="text" value="24"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn (Plant Date) | m | <input type="text" value="04"/> | d | <input type="text" value="20"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drybeans (Plant Date) | m | <input type="text" value="05"/> | d | <input type="text" value="31"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GrassHay (Green Up Date) | m | <input type="text" value="04"/> | d | <input type="text" value="15"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Smallgrn (Plant Date) | m | <input type="text" value="04"/> | d | <input type="text" value="06"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sgrbeets (Plant Date) | m | <input type="text" value="04"/> | d | <input type="text" value="08"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Potatoes (Plant Date) | m | <input type="text" value="06"/> | d | <input type="text" value="03"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Onion/sd (Plant Date) | m | <input type="text" value="03"/> | d | <input type="text" value="22"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WntrWheat (Green Up Date) | m | <input type="text" value="03"/> | d | <input type="text" value="01"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tomato (Plant Date) | m | <input type="text" value="05"/> | d | <input type="text" value="15"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peach (Green Up Date) | m | <input type="text" value="04"/> | d | <input type="text" value="01"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apple (Green Up Date) | m | <input type="text" value="04"/> | d | <input type="text" value="10"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherry (Green Up Date) | m | <input type="text" value="04"/> | d | <input type="text" value="03"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grape (Green Up Date) | m | <input type="text" value="05"/> | d | <input type="text" value="01"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cool Season Turf | | | | |

Reference ET Model:

- ☒ Penman-Kimberly
☐ ASCE Standardized Daily
☐ ASCE Standardized Hourly

Format

- ☒ Web page (HTML)
☐ Comma-Separated Values (CSV)

The **crop coefficients** used to generate crop ET reports were developed for the Penman-Kimberly model. Selection of another model is only

Submit

Reset

Crop Growth Stage

Built in to CoAgMet somewhat = “Crop Coefficients”

Field verification involves estimating the percent cover

Percent cover X Potential ET = Actual ET for that growth stage

Cautionary tale: Many crops particularly corn, beans, and especially small grains DO NOT LIKE early overwatering!



What factors affect ET

1. Solar Radiation: Energy from the sun
2. Temperature
3. Wind
4. Humidity
5. Crop
6. Stage of Growth: Crop Coefficients
7. Soil moisture and salinity
8. Stand density, plant nutrition, crop variety etc.

Week of July 1 to July 10							
<u>Date</u>	<u>Alfalfa</u>	<u>GrassHay</u>	<u>Smallgrn</u>	<u>Potatoes</u>	<u>ETr</u>	<u>ETo</u>	<u>Precip</u>
7/1/2023	0.31	0.27	0.26	0.27	0.31	0.24	0
7/2/2023	0.27	0.24	0.22	0.24	0.27	0.22	0
7/3/2023	0.31	0.27	0.25	0.28	0.31	0.25	0
7/4/2023	0.28	0.25	0.22	0.25	0.28	0.23	0
7/5/2023	0.3	0.26	0.23	0.27	0.3	0.24	0
7/6/2023	0.39	0.34	0.28	0.35	0.39	0.3	0
7/7/2023	0.39	0.34	0.27	0.35	0.39	0.3	0
7/8/2023	0.39	0.34	0.25	0.35	0.39	0.3	0
7/9/2023	0.31	0.27	0.19	0.28	0.31	0.24	0
7/10/2023	0.27	0.23	0.16	0.24	0.27	0.22	0

How weather affects ET

		T Max	T Min	Wind Run	Precip	Wind Gusts	Ref ET
Month	Day	°F	°F	Mi/Day	In	mph	ASCE
7	1	81.4	41.5	126.6	0	7.8	0.30
7	2	80.2	47.2	146.5	0	20.7	0.28
7	3	84.2	44.2	130.9	0	9.0	0.31
7	4	82.7	48.2	154.3	0	16	0.29
7	5	84.4	46.2	249.6	0	20	0.34
7	6	83.0	41.7	264.7	0	17.2	0.40
7	7	85.2	45.1	232	0	18.2	0.39
7	8	84.9	45.2	258.8	0	18.0	0.40
7	9	86.2	43.9	123.2	0	8.2	0.30
7	10	81.8	49.8	152.7	0	11.8	0.28

Adjustments

Hot and Windy—Use Max ET numbers

Cloudy afternoon: Use $\frac{2}{3}$ of Max ET

Cloudy all day: Use $\frac{1}{2}$ of Max ET

But remember you can always get info off the web for ET from CoAgMet stations

And always check you soils: Auger, shovel, sensors

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3. **Soil Moisture Status at this moment**
4. System characteristics, Efficiencies



Verifying Moisture

- ☐ Shovel, Auger, field check
 - ☐ Using the “Feel Method”
- ☐ Moisture Sensors
 - ☐ Tensiometers or Gypsum Blocks
 - ☐ Capacitance probes
 - ☐ Autonomous Pivot



TACOMA

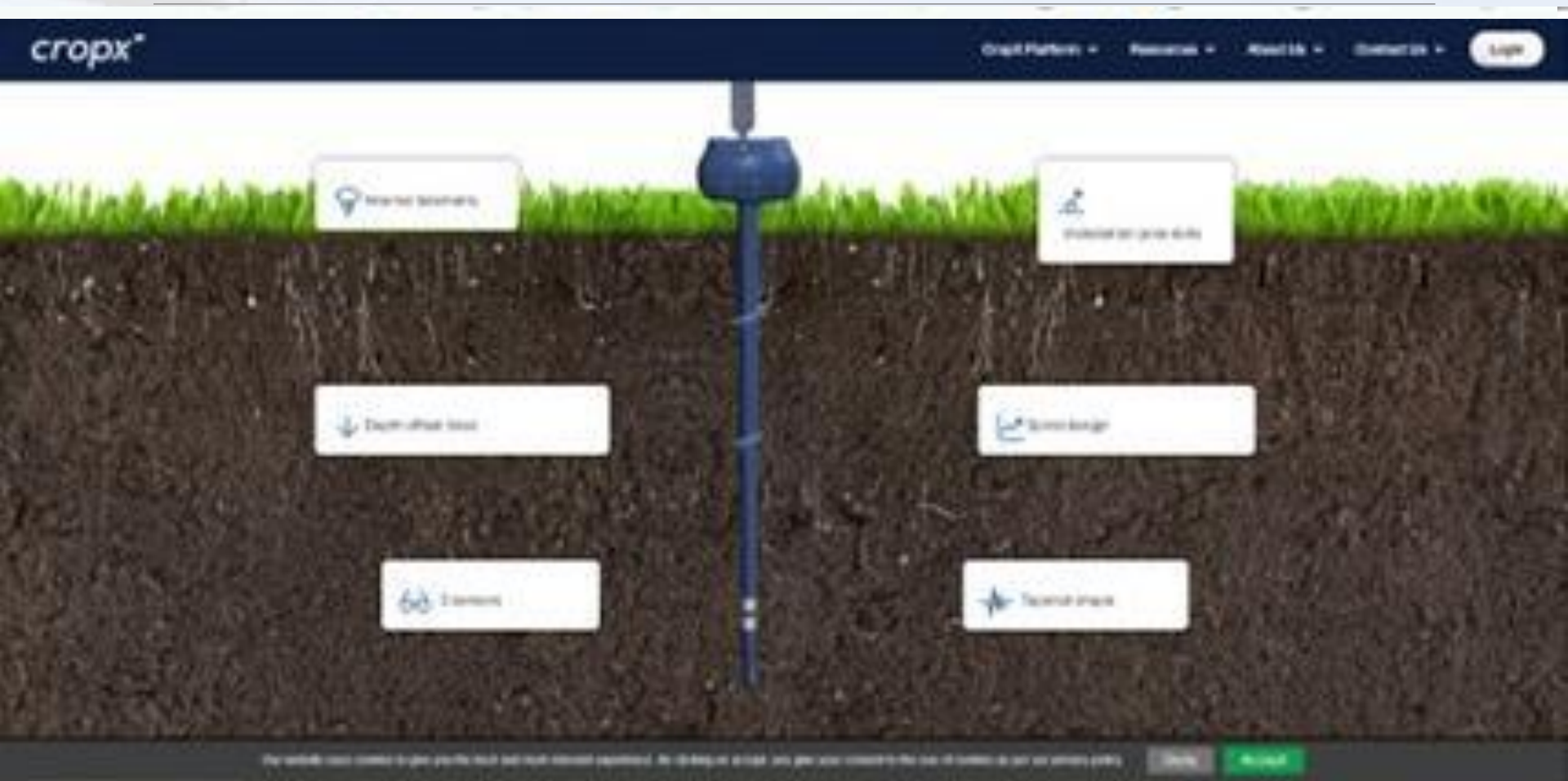
Oakfield Apparatus Augers



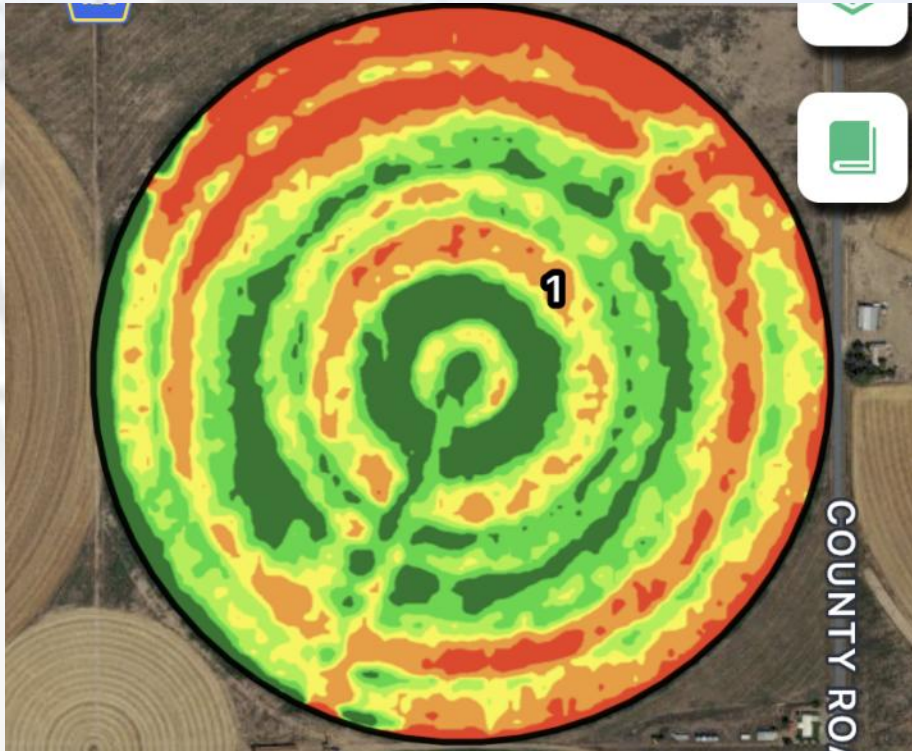
AMS Sampling Equipment



Moisture sensors



Positioning Moisture Sensors



- Original software recommended placing sensors based on soil type
- I recommend the start position, outer 2 spans
- Position sensors away where the nozzle spray will reach them when the system starts
- **If you have nozzling issues, sensors may be inaccurate**

Feel Method

USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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Search results for "estimating soil Moisture"

Publications/Forms 1 - 2 displayed.
2 total matching your criteria.

No.	Publication/Form
 PA-1619	Estimating Soil Moisture by Feel and Appearance PA-1619 is a guide to estimate soil moisture
 PA-1619-SP	Estimando Soil Moisture-Calculo De La Humedad PA-1619-SP, Calculo De La Humedad del Suelo Moisture by Feel And Appearance brochure. (C

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v1.3.0 (NRCPDS-PA4518)

Appearance of fine sand and loamy fine sand soils at various soil moisture conditions.

Available Water Capacity 0.6-1.2 inches/foot

Percent Available: Currently available soil moisture as a percent of available water capacity.

In/ft. Depleted: Inches of water currently needed to refill a foot of soil to field capacity.

0-25 percent available
1.2-0.5 in./ft. depleted

Dry, loose, will hold together if not disturbed, loose sand grains on fingers with applied pressure. (Not pictured)



25-50 percent available
0.9-0.3 in./ft. depleted

Slightly moist, forms a very weak ball with well-defined finger mark



50-75 percent available
0.6-0.2 in./ft. depleted

Moist, forms a weak ball with loose and aggregated sand grains on fingers, darkened color, moderate water staining on fingers, will not ribbon.



75-100 percent available
0.3-0.0 in./ft. depleted

Wet, forms a weak ball, loose and aggregated sand grains remain on fingers, darkened color, heavy water staining on fingers, will not ribbon

100 percent available
0.0 in./ft. depleted (field capacity)

Wet, forms a weak ball, moderate to heavy soil/water coating on fingers, wet outline of soft ball remains on hand. (Not pictured)

Feel Method

	Coarse Texture— Fine Sand and Loamy Fine Sand	Moderately Coarse Texture— Sandy Loam and Fine Sandy Loam	Medium Texture—Sandy Clay Loam, Loam, and Silt Loam	Fine Texture—Clay, Clay Loam, or Silty Clay Loam
Available Water Capacity (Inches/Foot)				
	0.6-1.2	1.3-1.7	1.5-2.1	1.6-2.4
Available Soil Moisture Percent	Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD) in inches per foot when the feel and appearance of the soil are as described.			
0-25	Dry, loose, will hold together if not disturbed, loose sand grains on fingers with applied pressure. SMD 1.2 - 0.5	Dry, forms a very weak ball, ¹ aggregated soil grains break away easily from ball. SMD 1.7 - 1.0	Dry, soil aggregations break away easily, no moisture staining on fingers, clods crumble with applied pressure. SMD 2.1 - 1.1	Dry, soil aggregations easily separate, clods are hard to crumble with applied pressure. SMD 2.4 - 1.2
25-50	Slightly moist, forms a very weak ball with well-defined finger marks, light coating of loose and aggregated sand grains remain on fingers. SMD 0.9 - 0.3	Slightly moist, forms a weak ball with defined finger marks, darkened color, no water staining on fingers, grains break away. SMD 1.3 - 0.7	Slightly moist, forms a weak ball with rough surfaces, no water staining on fingers, few aggregated soil grains break away. SMD 1.6 - 0.8	Slightly moist, forms a weak ball, very few soil aggregations break away, no water stains, clods flatten with applied pressure. SMD 1.8 - 0.8
50-75	Moist, forms a weak ball with loose and aggregated sand grains on fingers, darkened color, moderate water staining on fingers, will not ribbon. ² SMD 0.6 - 0.2	Moist, forms a ball with defined finger marks, very light soil/water staining on fingers, darkened color, will not slick. SMD 0.9 - 0.3	Moist, forms a ball, very light water staining on fingers, darkened color, pliable, forms a weak ribbon between thumb and forefinger. SMD 1.1 - 0.4	Moist, forms a smooth ball with defined finger marks, light soil/water staining on fingers, ribbons between thumb and forefinger. SMD 1.2 - 0.4
75-100	Wet, forms a weak ball, loose and aggregated sand grains remain on fingers, darkened color, heavy water staining on fingers, will not ribbon. SMD 0.3 - 0.0	Wet, forms a ball with wet outline left on hand, light to medium water staining on fingers, makes a weak ribbon between thumb and forefinger. SMD 0.4 - 0.0	Wet, forms a ball with well defined finger marks, light to heavy soil/water coating on fingers, ribbons between thumb and forefinger. SMD 0.5 - 0.0	Wet, forms a ball, uneven medium to heavy soil/water coating on fingers, ribbons easily between thumb and forefinger. SMD 0.6 - 0.0
Field Capacity (100 percent)	Wet, forms a weak ball, moderate to heavy soil/water coating on fingers, wet outline of soft ball remains on hand. SMD 0.0	Wet, forms a soft ball, free water appears briefly on soil surface after squeezing or shaking, medium to heavy soil/water coating on fingers. SMD 0.0	Wet, forms a soft ball, free water appears briefly on soil surface after squeezing or shaking, medium to heavy soil/water coating on fingers. SMD 0.0	Wet, forms a soft ball, free water appears on soil surface after squeezing or shaking, thick soil/water coating on fingers, slick and sticky. SMD 0.0

So... where do I check?

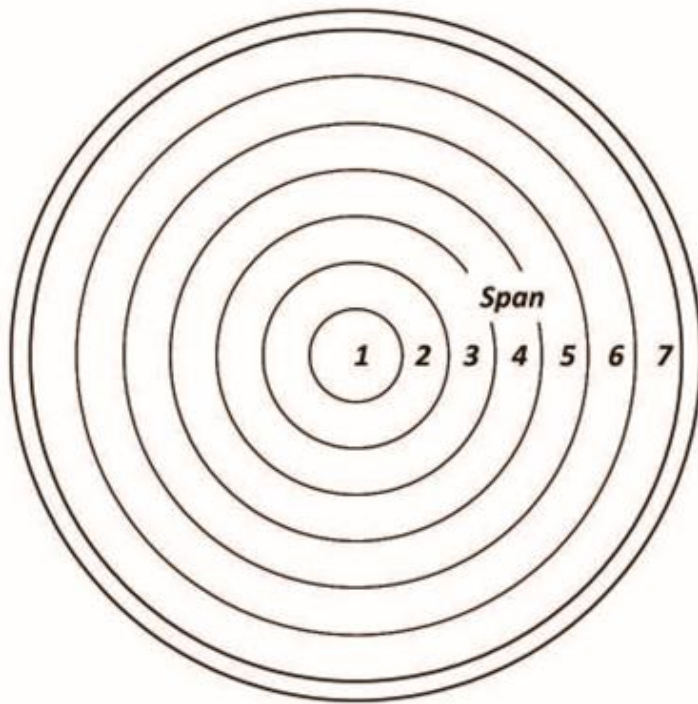
At the Start Position

In Front of the sprinkler

If you have concerns, at the stop position

On a sprinkler: Outer 2, maybe 3 spans

So... where do I check?



Span	Span end, ft	Area within the span, acres	Discharge from span gpm
1	180	2	14
2	360	7	42
3	549	12	71
4	720	16	99
5	900	21	127
6	1080	26	156
7	1269	39	184
O. Hang	1310	9	56
Total		124	750

Figure L-1. Characteristics of a typical center pivot. (Note that 45% of the land area is under the outer two spans while only about 7% of the land is under the first two spans.)

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Irrigation Efficiencies

Defined as the Percent of the water applied in an irrigation that goes to crop evapotranspiration

Sprinklers: 80% to 95%

- Depends on nozzling, height, runoff

Sideroll: 60 to 85%

Surface/Flood: 35% to 60%

Wild Flood/Meadows: Depends on water distribution

For Sprinklers and Sideroll: Current Percent vs. Depth Chart?

- Correct Flow?
 - Design Flow is often NOT the actual
 - Nozzle charts are often based on un-tested flow and pressure
- Correct Pressure?
 - Well Problems/declining water will manifest here!!!
 - Pattern problems
 - Biggest impact will be on the outer 2 to 3 spans
- Center Drive Changes?
 - Gearbox went out, center drive replaced with something off an old sprinkle or the shelf in the shop?
 - Ground was rented out (carrots and lettuce growers will put in super fast gearboxes)

John Smith

XYZ

Irrigation Depth Chart

7-Jul-23

DEPTH	TRUE PERCENT	DIAL SETTING	HOURS
(in)	(%)	(%)	(hrs)
0.18	100	100	10.7
0.20	91	91	11.7
0.25	73	73	14.7
0.30	61	61	17.6
0.35	52	52	20.5
0.40	45	45	23.5
0.50	36	36	29.4
0.60	30	30	35.2
0.65	28	28	38.2
0.70	26	26	41.1
0.75	24	24	44.0
0.80	23	23	47.0
0.85	21	21	49.9
0.90	20	20	52.8
1.00	18	18	58.7
1.10	17	17	64.6
1.20	15	15	70.4
1.30	14	14	76.3
1.40	13	13	82.2
1.50	12	12	88.1
1.6	11	11	93.9

Use DIAL SETTING for correct depth

DATA IS WITH END GUN OFF

System FlowRate:	900.0	Flow Test?:	CHAC
Pressure ON TOP:	32.0	Irrigated Acreage:	117
Distance to Tower 8:	1238.3	Minimum Depth:	0.18
Effective Reach:	1271.7	Fastest Circle:	10.7
Static Water Level:	0.0	50 ft Time @100%:	4.1
Pumping Water Level:	0.0	20% Time:	12.00
System KW Demand:	0.0	50% Time:	30.00
Percent of Circle Irrig:	100%	Cycle Time:	60.00

Provided by Cactus Hill Ag Consulting, LLC

Pressure Drop



John Smith

XYZ

Irrigation Depth Chart

7-Jul-23

DEPTH	TRUE PERCENT	DIAL SETTING	HOURS
(in)	(%)	(%)	(hrs)
0.15	100	100	10.7
0.20	75	75	14.2
0.25	60	60	17.7
0.30	50	50	21.2
0.35	43	43	24.8
0.40	38	38	28.3
0.50	30	30	35.4
0.60	25	25	42.5
0.65	23	23	46.0
0.70	21	21	49.6
0.75	20	20	53.1
0.80	19	19	56.7
0.85	18	18	60.2
0.90	17	17	63.7
1.00	15	15	70.8
1.10	14	14	77.9
1.20	13	13	85.0
1.30	12	12	92.1
1.40	11	11	99.2
1.50	10	10	106.2
1.6	9	9	113.3

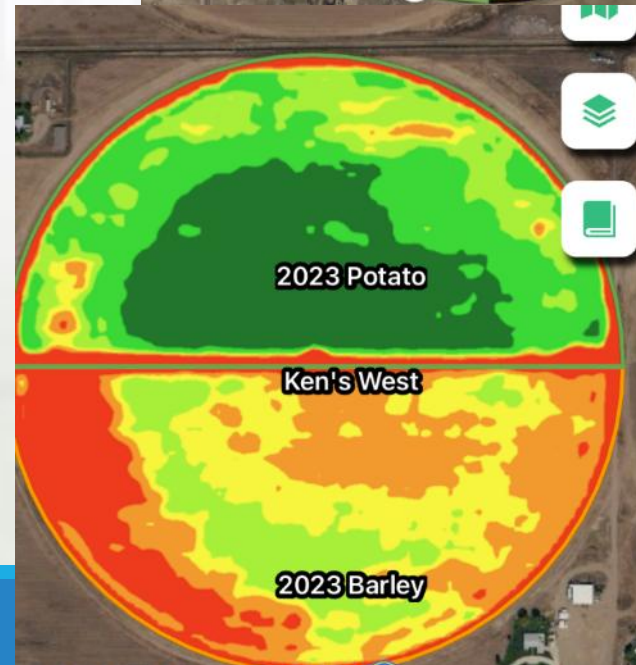
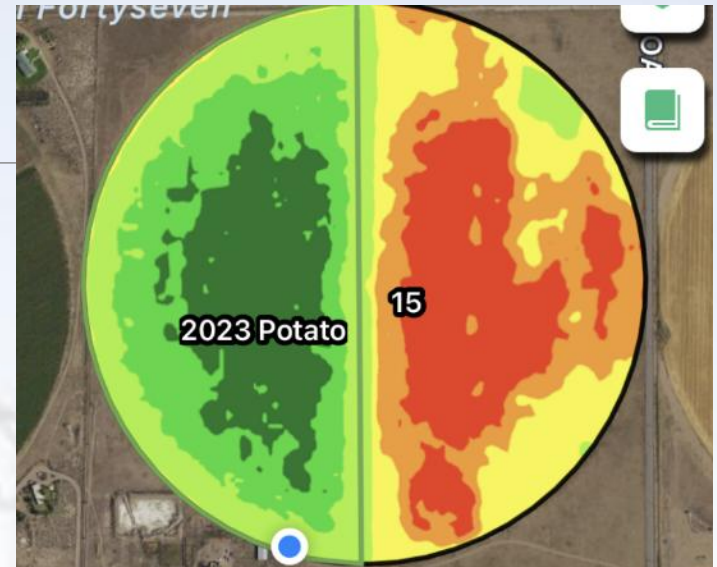
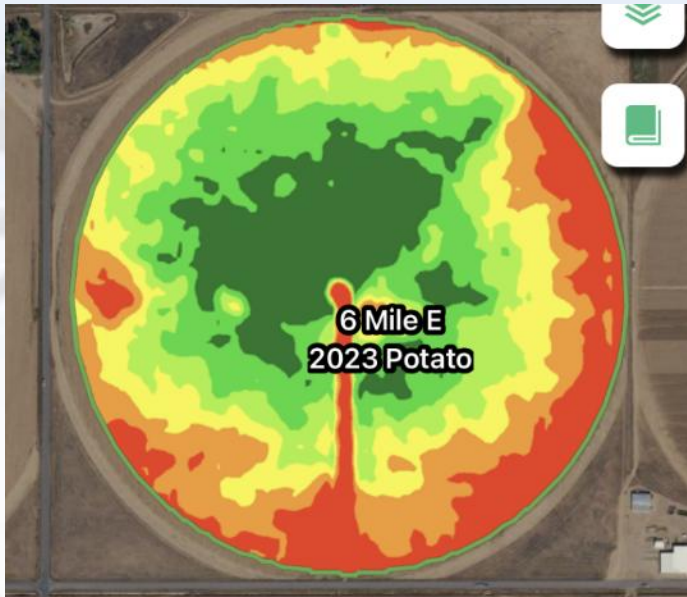
Use DIAL SETTING for correct depth

DATA IS WITH END GUN OFF

System FlowRate:	746.0	Flow Test?:	CHAC
Pressure ON TOP:	22.0	Irrigated Acreage:	117
Distance to Tower 8:	1238.3	Minimum Depth:	0.15
Effective Reach:	1271.7	Fastest Circle:	10.7
Static Water Level:	0.0	50 ft Time @100%:	4.1
Pumping Water Level:	0.0	20% Time:	12.00
System KW Demand:	0.0	50% Time:	30.00
Percent of Circle Irrig:	100%	Cycle Time:	60.00

Provided by Cactus Hill Ag Consulting, LLC

Effects of Low Pressure



John Smith

XYZ

Irrigation Depth Chart

7-Jul-23

DEPTH	TRUE PERCENT	DIAL SETTING	HOURS
(in)	(%)	(%)	(hrs)
0.18	100	100	10.7
0.20	91	91	11.7
0.25	73	73	14.7
0.30	61	61	17.6
0.35	52	52	20.5
0.40	45	45	23.5
0.50	36	36	29.4
0.60	30	30	35.2
0.65	28	28	38.2
0.70	26	26	41.1
0.75	24	24	44.0
0.80	23	23	47.0
0.85	21	21	49.9
0.90	20	20	52.8
1.00	18	18	58.7
1.10	17	17	64.6
1.20	15	15	70.4
1.30	14	14	76.3
1.40	13	13	82.2
1.50	12	12	88.1
1.6	11	11	93.9

Use DIAL SETTING for correct depth

DATA IS WITH END GUN OFF

System FlowRate:	900.0	Flow Test?:	CHAC
Pressure ON TOP:	32.0	Irrigated Acreage:	117
Distance to Tower 8:	1238.3	Minimum Depth:	0.18
Effective Reach:	1271.7	Fastest Circle:	10.7
Static Water Level:	0.0	50 ft Time @100%:	4.1
Pumping Water Level:	0.0	20% Time:	12.00
System KW Demand:	0.0	50% Time:	30.00
Percent of Circle Irrig:	100%	Cycle Time:	60.00

Provided by Cactus Hill Ag Consulting, LLC

Change in
Center Drive

John Smith

XYZ

Irrigation Depth Chart

7-Jul-23

DEPTH	TRUE PERCENT	DIAL SETTING	HOURS
(in)	(%)	(%)	(hrs)
0.12	100	100	6.9
0.20	59	59	11.7
0.25	47	47	14.7
0.30	39	39	17.6
0.35	33	33	20.5
0.40	29	29	23.5
0.50	23	23	29.4
0.60	20	20	35.2
0.65	18	18	38.2
0.70	17	17	41.1
0.75	16	16	44.0
0.80	15	15	47.0
0.85	14	14	49.9
0.90	13	13	52.8
1.00	12	12	58.7
1.10	11	11	64.6
1.20	10	10	70.4
1.30	9	9	76.3
1.40	8	8	82.2
1.50	8	8	88.1
1.6	7	7	93.9

Use DIAL SETTING for correct depth

DATA IS WITH END GUN OFF

System FlowRate:	900.0	Flow Test?:	CHAC
Pressure ON TOP:	32.0	Irrigated Acreage:	117
Distance to Tower 8:	1238.3	Minimum Depth:	0.12
Effective Reach:	1271.7	Fastest Circle:	6.9
Static Water Level:	0.0	50 ft Time @100%:	2.7
Pumping Water Level:	0.0	20% Time:	12.00
System KW Demand:	0.0	50% Time:	30.00
Percent of Circle Irrig:	100%	Cycle Time:	60.00

Provided by Cactus Hill Ag Consulting, LLC

Putting it all together:

How do I ACTUALLY Schedule

What is my MAD? What irrigation depth will I use?

MAD = Root Depth X AWHC X Percent MAD

- **MAD / Irrigation Efficiency = Irrigation Depth**

How long since I last irrigated: in days

What is ET for those days

What is the rainfall over 0.1 inches

Calculate (and do a field check): **Deficit = ET x days – precip**

When I hit my MAD: Irrigate

Keep track of RAIN



Typical Irrigation depth (Sprinklers)

Alfalfa and irrigated pasture:

- New stand after planting: .4 inches
- Established stand:
 - 0.8 inches to 1.8 inches

Potatoes, soybeans, dry beans, peas and some vegetables:

- First irrigation or Pre-Water: Wet entire profile
- Rest of irrigations: .5 to 1.0 inches

Small grains and small seeded vegetables:

- Early: keep seed wet for germination, Break Crust, incorporate fertilizer
- Later: 0.5 to 1.2 depending on soil type

Putting it all together:

EXAMPLE

What is my MAD? What irrigation depth will I use?

MAD= Root Depth X AWHC X Percent MAD

Example: Dry Beans at bloom in Montrose: 16 inches X 0.16 in/in X (40/100) = 1.02 inches

MAD / Irrigation Efficiency = Irrigation Depth

In the example: 1.02 inches/0.90 = 1.15

How long since I last irrigated in days: 4 days

What is ET for those days: 0.3, 0.3, 0.15, 0.24 = total of 0.99

What is the rainfall over 0.1 inches: Example = 0.2

Calculate (and do a field check): Deficit = ET x days – precip Example = (0.99 in 4 days) - 0.2 rain = 0.79 current deficit

When I hit my MAD: Irrigate

Deficit is 0.79 Currently, weather supposed to be windy and dry today so ET will likely be 0.3, MAD will be reached so start irrigation pm.

Keep track of your “Checkbook”

<u>July</u> <u>Field</u>	4 Mon	5 Tues	6 Weds	7 Thurs	8 Fri	9 Sat	10 Sun	11 Mon	12 Tues	13 Weds
GV1 Wheat W/Barley+Peas		0.8 am FM			0.8 am FM			0.8 am FM		
			0.8 pm Wh			0.8 pm Wh			0.8 pm Wh	
GV2 Wheat W/Barley+Peas		0.8 pm FM	0.8 pm Wh		0.8 pm FM	0.8 pm Wh		0.8 pm FM	0.8 pm Wh	
R1 Org Alfalfa		1.0 am				1.2 am				1.2 am
31 Canola	0.8 am			0.8 am			0.8 am			0.8 am
32		1.0 am				1.0 am				1.0 am
33 Alfalfa Org Trans		1.0 am				1.2 am				1.2 am
34 Alfalfa		1.0 am				1.2 am				1.2 am
35 Barley	0.8 am			0.7 am			0.7 am			0.7 am
37 Alfalfa/IRG		1.0 am				1.2 am				1.2 am
38 Barley	0.7 am to S			0.7 am to N			0.7 am to S			0.7 am to N
Carlson Canola			final N? 20? 0.8 pm			0.8 pm			0.8 pm	
RL 1 Pasture Grass?	1.0 am			1.0 pm				1.0 am		
RL 2 Pasture Grass?			1.0 am			1.0 pm				1.0 am



Questions?

On the fly adjustments

1. **MEMORIZE THIS!!!**

$$Q_{\text{(GPM)}} T_{\text{(hrs)}} = 453 A_{\text{(acres)}} D_{\text{(In.)}}$$

This is the basis for all percent charts

2. Adjusting for Pressure change:

$$\sqrt{\frac{\text{Pressure}_{\text{New}}}{\text{Pressure}_{\text{Old}}}} * \text{Old Flow (GPM)} = \text{APPROX NEW FLOW}$$

The Math

$$\sqrt{\frac{\text{Pressure}_{\text{New}}}{\text{Pressure}_{\text{Old}}}} * \text{Old Flow (GPM)} = \text{APPROX NEW FLOW}$$

1. ADJUST FLOW

$$22 \div 32 = 0.875$$

$$\sqrt{0.875} = 0.935$$

$$0.935 \times 900 = 841 \text{ GPM}$$

$$Q_{\text{(GPM)}} T_{\text{(HRS)}} = 453 A_{\text{(ACRES)}} D_{\text{(IN.)}}$$

2. Adjust irrigation depth

You need to apply 0.7"

$$T_{\text{(hrs)}} = (453 \times A \times D) \div Q$$

$$T_{\text{(hrs)}} = (453 \times 117 \times 0.7) \div 746$$

$$T = 49.7 \text{ Hrs}$$

3. ADJUST PERCENT TIMER:

Cheat and look up the time on the old chart, 21% Or

Adjust your 100% depth using the above Equation:

$$D = Q \times T / 453 \times A \quad D = (746 \times 10.7) \div 453 \times 117 \quad D = 0.15$$

$$\% \text{ SETTING} = 0.15 / 0.7 \times 100 = 21\%$$

Then and Now

1980

- Water Application on:
Barley-23-24 inches
Potatoes—21-23 in
Alfalfa—26-30 in
- Efficiencies-
 - 70-75% sprinklers
 - 30-50% surface
- Evaporation
 - 10-20%

2023

- Water Application on:
Barley-18-19 inches
Potatoes—17-20 in
Alfalfa— 25-28 in
- Efficiencies-
 - 85-95% sprinklers
 - 40-60% surface
- Evaporation
 - 5-10%

Soil Texture

