

Irrigation scheduling

Why and How

Lyndon Kelley

MSU Extension / Purdue University Irrigation Management Agent

St. Joseph Co. MSU Extension, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032

Cell 269-535-0343, Kelleyl@MSU.EDU, 269-467-5511

<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/irrigation>

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/ABE/Engagement/Irrigation>

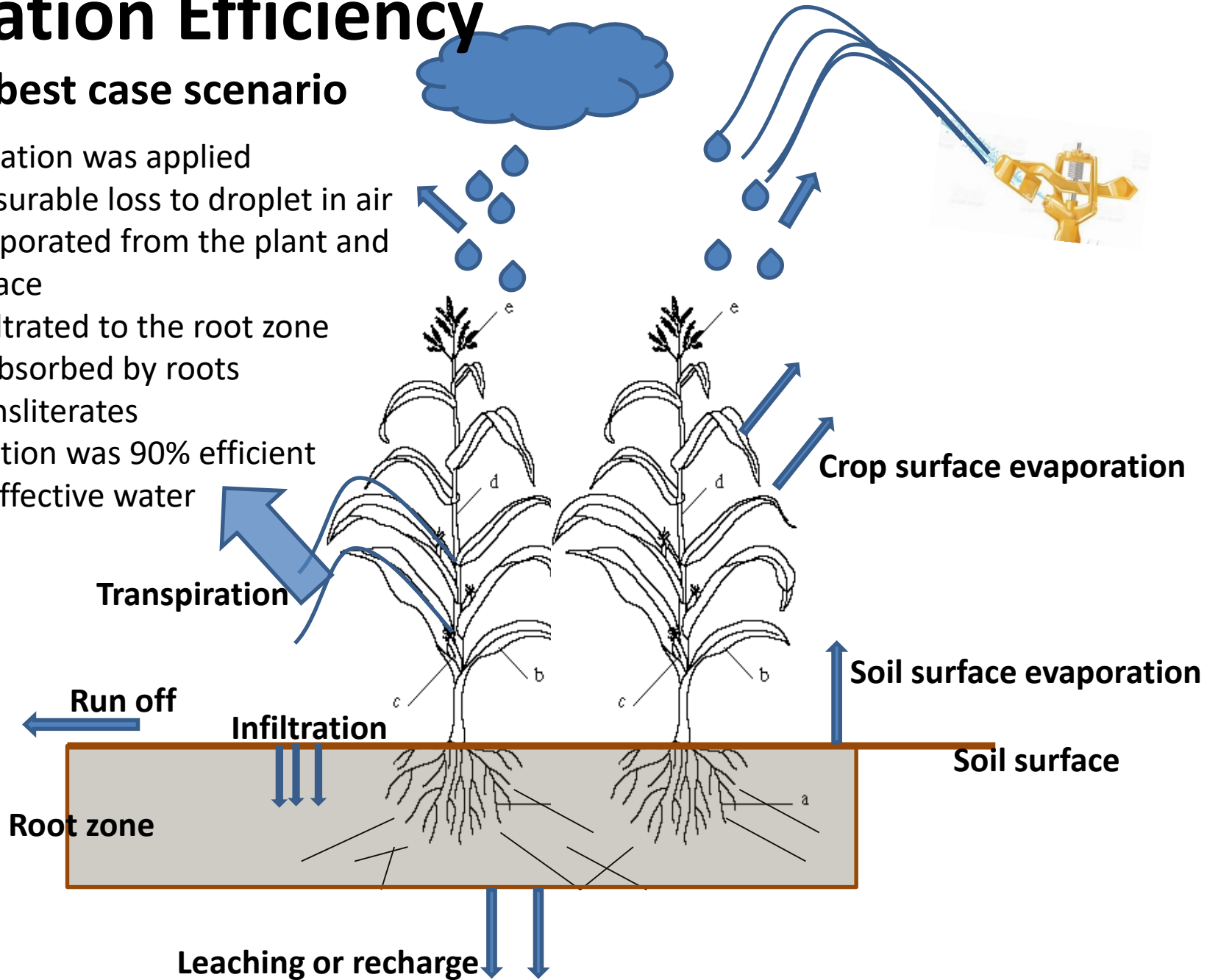
Irrigation Efficiency

best case scenario

If 1" of irrigation was applied

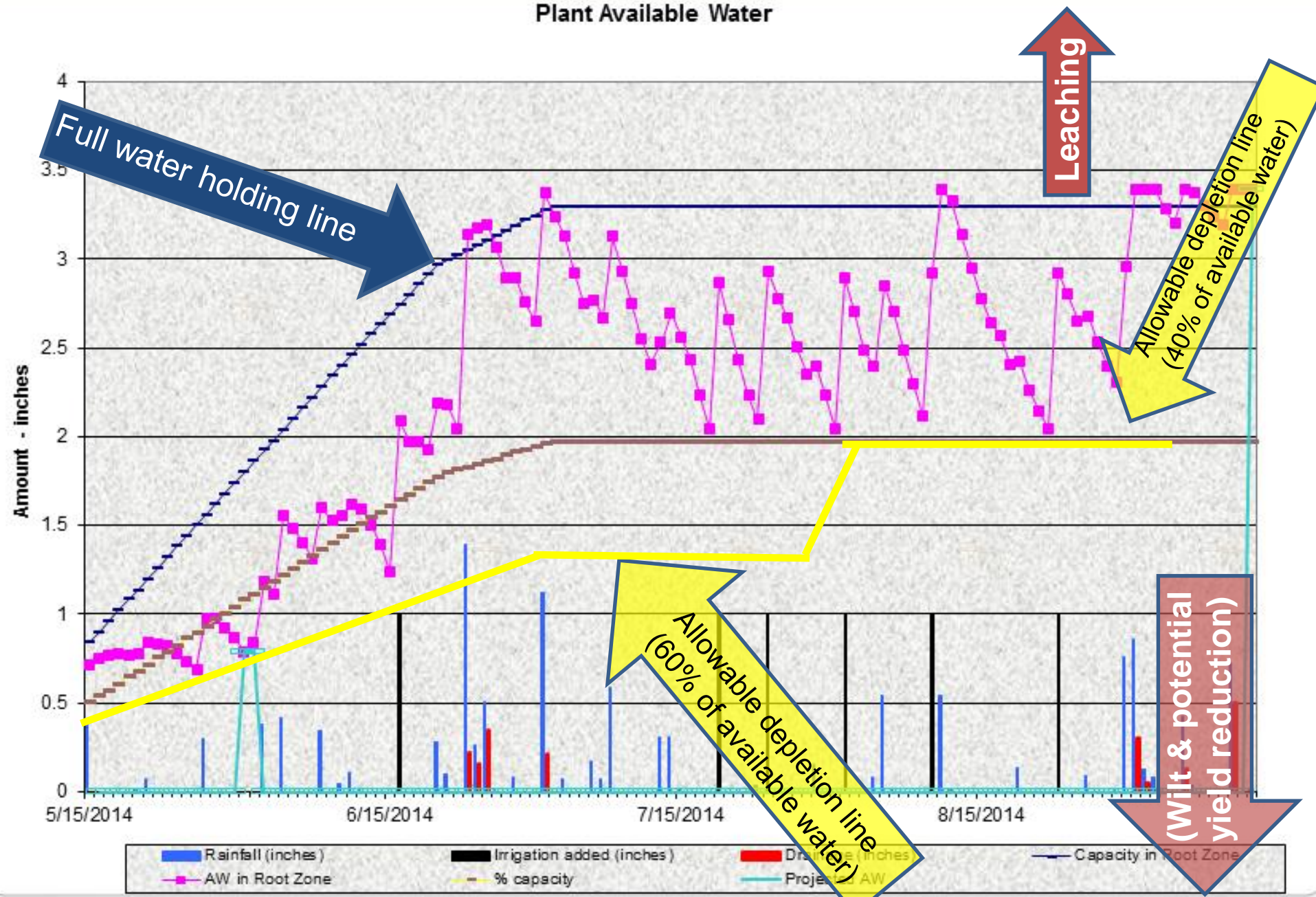
- No measurable loss to droplet in air
- 0.1" evaporated from the plant and soil surface
- 0.9" infiltrated to the root zone
- 0.9" is absorbed by roots
- 0.9" transpires

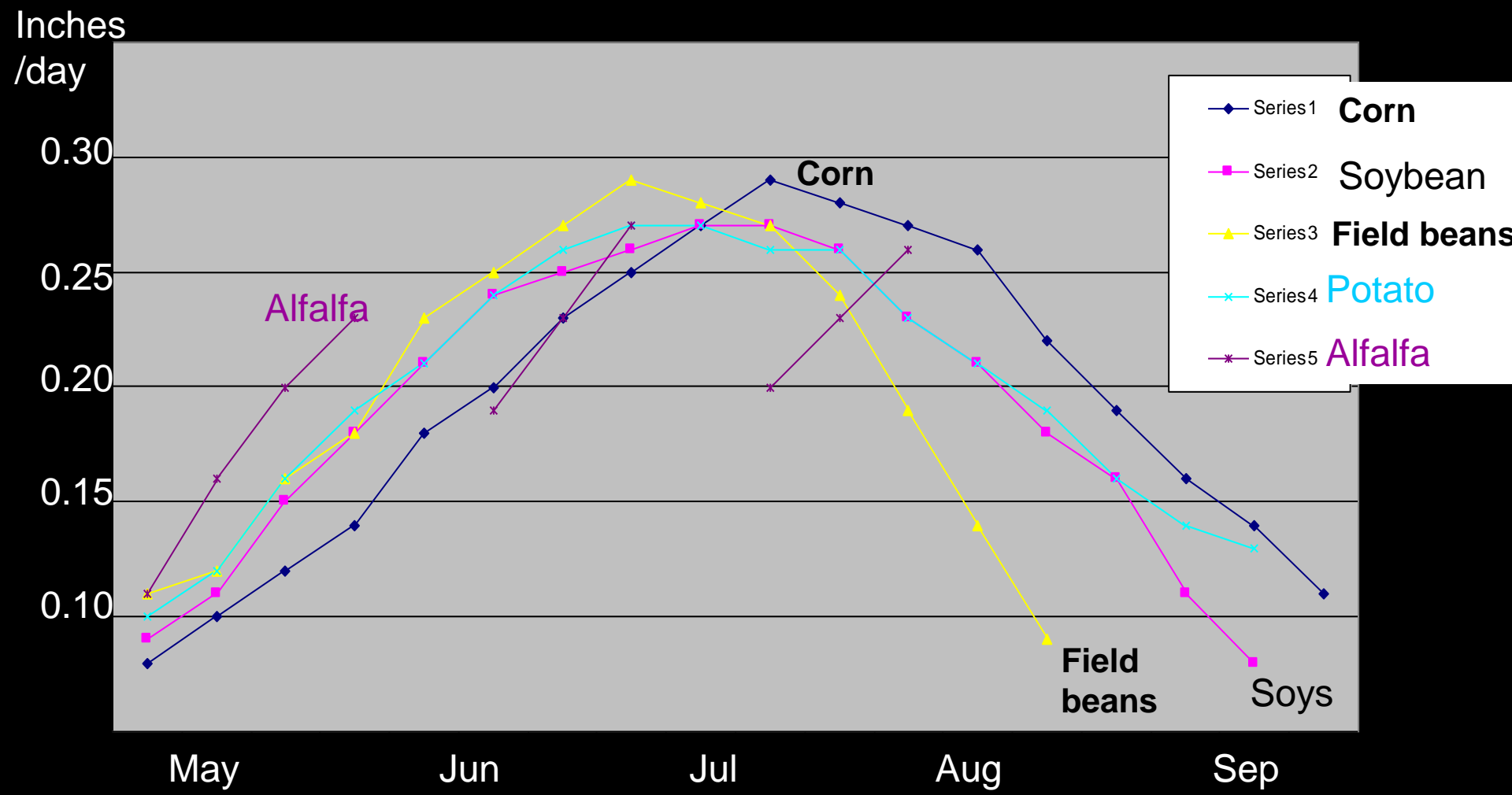
The application was 90% efficient or 0.9" of effective water



MSU Excel Irrigation Schedule Checkbook Method - Mendon 2014

Plant Available Water





From Minnesota Extension bulletin "Irrigation Scheduling", assuming temperature 80-89

SW PAC – Potential Evapotranspiration (PET)-<http://iclimate.org>

Date	PACId	Ref ET (inch)	Date	PACId	Ref ET (inch)	Date	PACId	Ref ET (inch)
5/23/2015	NEPAC	1.3	6/17/2015	NEPAC	0.13	7/12/2015	NEPAC	0.1
5/24/2015	NEPAC	0.17	6/18/2015	NEPAC	0.01	7/13/2015	NEPAC	0.04
5/25/2015	NEPAC	0.17	6/19/2015	NEPAC	0.07	7/14/2015	NEPAC	0.08
5/26/2015	NEPAC	0.13	6/20/2015	NEPAC	0.04	7/15/2015	NEPAC	0.09
5/27/2015	NEPAC	0.1	6/21/2015	NEPAC	0.1	7/16/2015	NEPAC	0.15
		0.07	6/22/2015	NEPAC	0.11	7/17/2015	NEPAC	0.07
		0.15	6/23/2015	NEPAC	0.1	7/18/2015	NEPAC	0.1
		0.15	6/24/2015	NEPAC	0.18	7/19/2015	NEPAC	0.11
		0.07	6/25/2015	NEPAC	0.13	7/20/2015	NEPAC	0.07
		0.02	6/26/2015	NEPAC	0.06	7/21/2015	NEPAC	0.13
		0.07	6/27/2015	NEPAC	0.03	7/22/2015	NEPAC	0.15
		0.1	6/28/2015	NEPAC	0.03	7/23/2015	NEPAC	0.16
		0.08	6/29/2015	NEPAC	0.15	7/24/2015	NEPAC	0.16
6/5/2015	NEPAC	0.14	6/30/2015	NEPAC	0.03	7/25/2015	NEPAC	0.16
6/6/2015	NEPAC	0.15	7/1/2015	NEPAC	0.1	7/26/2015	NEPAC	0.11
6/7/2015	NEPAC	0.14	7/2/2015	NEPAC	0.1	7/27/2015	NEPAC	0.14
6/8/2015	NEPAC	0.06	7/3/2015	NEPAC	0.11	7/28/2015	NEPAC	0.19
6/9/2015	NEPAC	0.07	7/4/2015	NEPAC	0.1	7/29/2015	NEPAC	0.18
6/10/2015	NEPAC	0.09	7/5/2015	NEPAC	0.14	7/30/2015	NEPAC	0.14
6/11/2015	NEPAC	0.15	7/6/2015	NEPAC	0.15	7/31/2015	NEPAC	0.18
6/12/2015	NEPAC	0.17	7/7/2015	NEPAC	0.14	8/1/2015	NEPAC	0.16
6/13/2015	NEPAC	0.06	7/8/2015	NEPAC	0.04	8/2/2015	NEPAC	0.17
6/14/2015	NEPAC	0.1	7/9/2015	NEPAC	0.03	8/3/2015	NEPAC	0.17
6/15/2015	NEPAC	0.07	7/10/2015	NEPAC	0.03			
6/16/2015	NEPAC	0.04	7/11/2015	NEPAC	0.11			



PET * Kc = crop ET
 crop ET / effectiveness factor – rainfall = needed irrigation
<http://www.egr.msu.edu/bae/water/irrigation-scheduling>

Constantine Potential Evapotranspiration Daily Summary (Report issued 6/30/2014 14:51)

Note that frozen precipitation amounts may not be accurate.

Day	Date	Max Temp (° F)	Min Temp (° F)	Ave Temp (° F)	Rainfall (in.) Today	Rainfall (in.) Since 6/28	Chance of Rain	Reference Potential Evapotranspiration (in.) Daily Total	Reference Potential Evapotranspiration (in.) Since 6/28
Sat	6/28/14	82.7	65.8	74.3	0	0	--	0.12	0.12
Sun	6/29/14	86.3	70.9	78.6	0	0	--	0.17	0.29

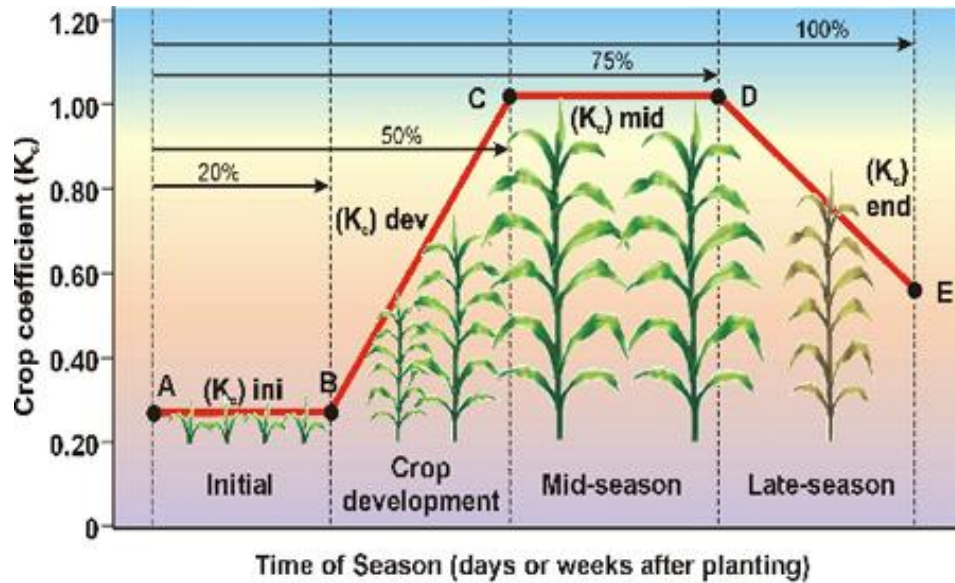
Today's data:

Day	Date	Max Temp (° F)	Min Temp (° F)	Ave Temp (° F)	Rainfall (in.) Today	Rainfall (in.) Since 6/28	Chance of Rain	Reference Potential Evapotranspiration (in.) Daily Total	Reference Potential Evapotranspiration (in.) Since 6/28
Mon	6/30/14	Forecast: 80	Actual (7:30-7:35AM): 70.6	75.3	0	0	44%	Observed: 0.05 Forecast: 0.13	0.42

Forecast data:

Day	Date	Max Temp (° F)	Min Temp (° F)	Ave Temp (° F)	Rainfall (in.) Today	Rainfall (in.) Since 6/28	Chance of Rain	Reference Potential Evapotranspiration (in.) Daily Total	Reference Potential Evapotranspiration (in.) Since 6/28
Tue	7/1/14	82	70	76	--	--	75%	0.2	0.62
Wed	7/2/14	69	60	64.5	--	--	38%	0.11	0.73
Thu	7/3/14	71	51	61	--	--	32%	0.17	0.9
Fri	7/4/14	75	50	62.5	--	--	10%	0.18	1.08
Sat	7/5/14	77	54	65.5	--	--	12%	0.19	1.27
Sun	7/6/14	80	58	69	--	--	19%	0.16	1.43

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu>



Crop Coefficients - K_c

<http://cropwatch.unl.edu/estimating-crop-evapotranspiration>

Table 3 Crop Coefficients for Forage, Vegetables and Berries

Crop	$K_{c\text{ ini}}$	$K_{c\text{ mid}}$	$K_{c\text{ end}}$
alfalfa	0.4	1.2	1.15
asparagus	0.3	0.95	0.3
beans, green	0.5	1.05	0.9
beets	0.5	1.05	0.95
blueberries	0.4	1.0	0.75
broccoli	0.7	1.05	0.95
cabbage	0.7	1.05	0.95
cabbage -local	0.7	1.05	0.95
carrots	0.7	1.05	0.95
cauliflower	0.7	1.05	0.95
cranberries	0.4	0.9	0.50
celery	0.7	1.05	0.95
cereal	0.3	1.15	0.25
corn	0.3	1.15	0.4
cucumber	0.6	1	0.75
green onions	0.7	1.05	0.95
lettuce	0.7	1	0.95

Crop	$K_{c\text{ ini}}$	$K_{c\text{ mid}}$	$K_{c\text{ end}}$
onions	0.7	1.05	0.95
pasture (grass)	0.4	1.0	0.85
peas	0.5	1.15	1.1
potato	0.5	1.15	0.75
pumpkin	0.5	1	0.8
radish	0.7	0.9	0.85
raspberries	0.4	1.2	0.75
small vegetables	0.70	1.05	0.95
spinach	0.7	1.05	0.95
strawberries	0.4	1.05	0.7
squash	0.5	0.95	0.75
sweet corn	0.3	1.15	0.4
sweet peppers	0.7	1.05	0.85
tomato	0.7	1.05	0.8
tubers	0.5	1.05	0.95
watermelon	0.4	1	0.75

<http://irrigationtoolbox.com/ReferenceDocuments/Extension/BCExtension/577100-5.pdf>

Crop Coefficients

Root depth

Growth

Threshold

Crop / root depth	% of total growth	Root depth (inches)	Kc %	Moisture threshold %
Cucumber P18	10	11	0.33	50
Cucumber P18	20	16	0.53	50
Cucumber P18	30	21	0.78	50
Cucumber P18	40	24	0.9	50
Cucumber P18	50	24	0.9	50
Cucumber P18	60	24	0.9	50
Cucumber P18	70	24	0.9	50
Cucumber P18	80	24	0.9	50
Cucumber P18	90	24	0.88	50
Cucumber P18	100	24	0.85	50

Apple
BlueBerries12
BlueBerries18
BlueBerries24
Broccoli
Carrot12
Carrot18
Carrot24
Carrot36
Cauliflower12
Cauliflower18
Celery
Cherries
Corn18
Corn24
Corn27
Corn36
Cucumber F12
Cucumber F18
Cucumber F24
Cucumber F36
Cucumber P12
Cucumber P18
Cucumber P24
Cucumber P36
Dry Beans18
Dry Beans21
Dry Beans24

Dry Onion12
Dry Onion15
Dry Onion18
Green Beans
Green Onion12
Green Onion18
Green Onion24
MuskMelon12
MuskMelon15
MuskMelon18
MuskMelon36
Peaches
Pears
Peas
Plums
Potatoes12
Potatoes18
Potatoes24
Squash
Strawberries
Tomatoes S12
Tomatoes S18
Tomatoes S24
Tomatoes T12
Tomatoes T18
Tomatoes T24
Wheat/Barley T 24

Do I have enough capacity



- Maximum water use for most crops is .27 - .32 in./day
- 3 gal/minute/acre pump capacity = 1in. /week
- 5 gal/minute/acre pump capacity = .25 in./day
- 7 gal/minute/acre pump capacity =.33 in./day, 1" every 3 days
- 500 gal/minute pump can provide 1" every 4 days on 100 acres

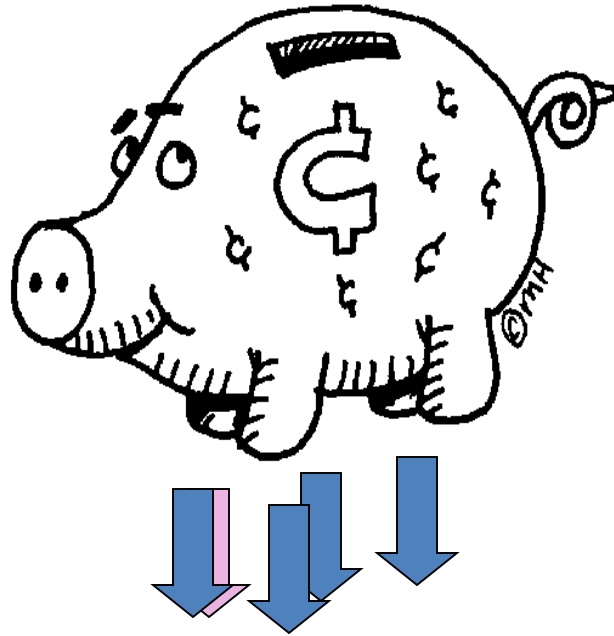
Think of your soil as a bank

Water holding capacity:
The soil (bank) can hold only a given volume of water before it allow it to pass lower down.

Soil type :
Heavier soil can hold more water / foot of depth than light soils

Intake rate:
Water applied faster than the soil intake rate is lost.

Rooting depth:
The plant can only get water to the depth of it's roots.



Deletion:
Plants can pull out only 30 - 60% of the water

Water lost from the bottom of the profile can wash out (leach) water soluble nutrients and pesticides.

Calculating Water Holding Capacity

Data from “Soil survey of Fulton County, Indiana and St Joseph County, Michigan ”



Soil Name	Depth Inches	Available water holding capacity	Average Available water holding capacity	Ave. Available water holding capacity (24 in.)	Ave. Available water holding capacity (36 in.)
Gilford	0 – 10	0.16 – 0.18	0.17	10” x 0.17 = 1.70	10” x 0.17 = 1.70
	10 –24	0.12 – 0.14	0.13	14” x 0.13 = 1.82	14” x 0.13 = 1.82
	24 - 60	0.05 – 0.08	0.07	----- = 3.52	<u>12” x 0.07 = 0.84</u> = 4.36
Sebewa	0 – 11	0.12 – 0.20	0.16	11” x 0.16 = 1.76	11” x 0.16 = 1.76
	11 – 30	0.15 – 0.19	0.17	13” x 0.17 = 2.21	13” x 0.17 = 2.21
	30 - 60	0.02 – 0.04	0.03	----- = 3.97	<u>12” x 0.03 = 0.36</u> = 4.33
Oshtemo	0 - 14	0.10 – 0.15	0.125	14” x 0.125=1.75	14” x 0.125= 1.75
	14 – 35	0.12 – 0.19	0.155	10” x 0.155=1.55	21” x 0.155= 3.26
	35 - 60	0.06 – 0.10	0.08	----- = 3.3	<u>1” x 0.08 = 0.08</u> = 5.09
Spinks	0 – 10	0.08 – 0.10	0.09	10” x 0.09= 0.9	10” x 0.09= 0.9
	10 – 26	0.08 – 0.10	0.09	14” x 0.09= 1.26	16” x 0.09= 1.26
	26 - 60	0.04 – 0.08	0.06	----- = 2.16	<u>8” x 0.06= 0.48</u> = 2.64

Rain Gauges and data

- Basic unit – 2 inch opening
- Cost less than \$10
- One rain gauge for each 80 acres.
- Recording rain gauge cost \$50 - \$100



Soybean Water use

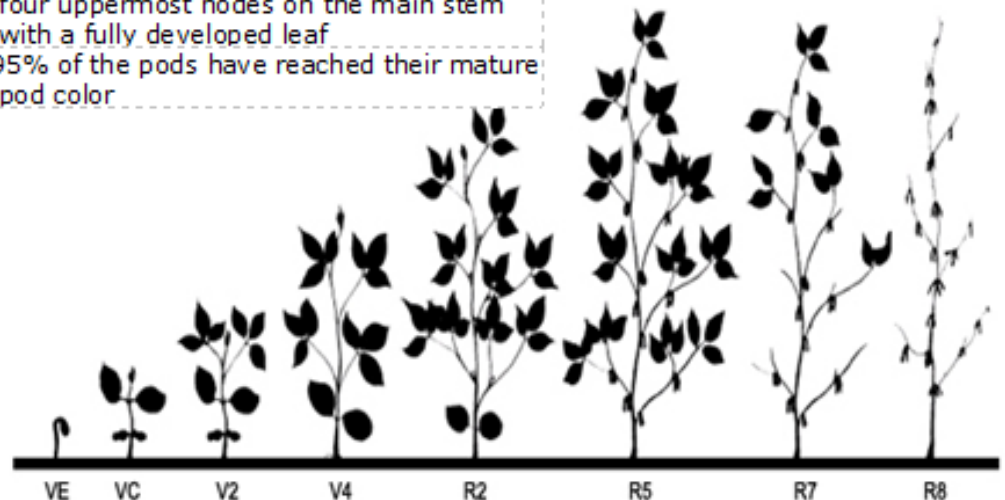
Average water use for Soybeans in inches/day - adapted From "Irrigation Scheduling Checkbook Method, Jerry Wright, University of Minnesota, 2002

Temperature	Week after emergence																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
50-59	.02	.02	.04	.04	.06	.07	.08	.09	.09	.09	.09	.08	.07	.05	.05	.03	.02
60-69	.02	.03	.05	.07	.09	.10	.11	.13	.13	.13	.13	.11	.10	.08	.07	.04	.02
70-79	.03	.05	.07	.09	.12	.13	.15	.17	.18	.18	.17	.15	.13	.10	.09	.05	.03
80-89	.04	.05	.10	.13	.16	.19	.20	.21	.22	.22	.21	.18	.16	.13	.11	.06	.03
90-99	.05	.07	.11	.14	.17	.20	.22	.25	.26	.26	.25	.22	.19	.16	.13	.08	.05
Soybean growth stages				2 nd trifoliolate			1 st flower				seed filling						leaves yellowing

Soybean Growth Stages

- V2 Unifoliolate and first two trifoliolate leaves are fully developed
- V6 Unifoliolate and six trifoliolate leaves are fully developed
- R1 Open flower at any node on the main stem
- R3 Pod is 5 mm (3/16 inch) long at one of the four uppermost nodes on the main stem with a fully developed leaf
- R8 95% of the pods have reached their mature pod color

Crop Stage	Crop coefficient Kc	Root Depth (in)	% of Growing Season
V2	0.1	6	0
	0.17	11.14	10
V4	0.27	16.28	20
	0.39	21.43	30
	0.58	24	40
R1	0.74	24	50
	0.89	24	60
R3	1.02	24	70
	0.92	24	80
	0.77	24	90
R8	0.66	24	100



For example, 120 day Corn36 (a corn variety with an effective rooting depth of 36 inches) and has an emergence date of May 15th, 10% of the growing season is May 27th.

Fill in Root Depth

10% of 120 = 12 15 + 12 = 27

Fill in Canopy Cover

<http://www.enviroweather.msu.edu>

Available water (AW) holding capacity of soil - (inches water/inch soil). See

Range (in)	0 - 6	6 - 12	12 - 18	18 - 24	24 - 30	30 - 36	36 - 42	42 - 48
AW (in/in)	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.150	0.084	0.070	0.070	0.030
Capacity filled (%)	60	80	95	95	95	95	95	95

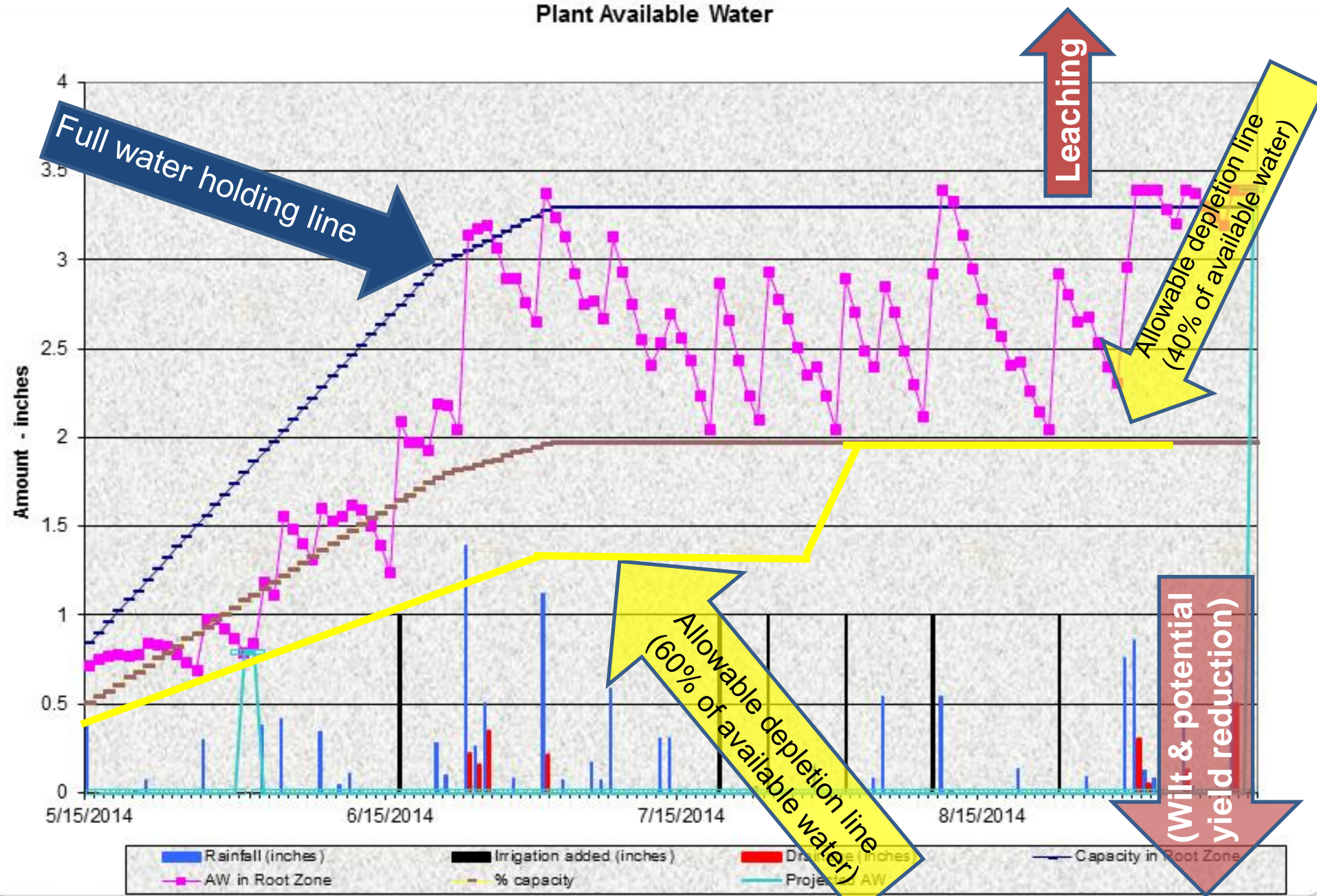
Soil Type (Bronson or Oshtema)	Oshtema
Crop (Corn24 or Corn36):	Corn36
Length of Growing Season (days)	105
Emergence Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	5/20/2014

Irrigation increment/amount per application (inches) 1 Irrigate at this % of Available Soil Water in Root Zone 60

Date	Root Depth (inches)	Rainfall (inches)	Irrigation added (inches)	Potential ET (inches)	% Canopy Cover (Kc)	Calculated in XLS						Proj ETO	Proj ET	NOTES
						ET modified for crop (inches)	Capacity of root zone (inches)	Available Water in root zone (inches)	% capacity filled	Drainage (inches)	Additional capacity of root zone			
23-Jun	28.67	2.5		0.08	0.66	0.05	3.54	3.65	103	2.27	0.00		0.00	
24-Jun	29.34	0.7		0.09	0.70	0.06	3.60	3.71	103	0.58	0.00		0.00	
25-Jun	30	0.1		0.15	0.74	0.11	3.66	3.73	102	0.00	0.00		0.00	
26-Jun	30.67	0		0.18	0.78	0.14	3.70	3.62	98	0.00	0.08		0.00	
27-Jun	31.34	0		0.19	0.82	0.16	3.75	3.49	93	0.00	0.26		0.00	
28-Jun	32	0		0.12	0.86	0.10	3.80	3.41	90	0.00	0.38		0.00	
29-Jun	32.67	0		0.17	0.90	0.15	3.84	3.29	86	0.00	0.55		0.00	
30-Jun	33				0.91	0.00	3.87	3.30	85	0.00	0.58		0.00	
1-Jul	33.34				0.92	0.00	3.89	3.32	85	0.00	0.59		0.00	
2-Jul	33.67				0.93	0.00	3.91	3.33	85	0.00	0.59		0.00	
3-Jul	34				0.94	0.00	3.94	3.35	85	0.00	0.60		0.00	
4-Jul	34.34				0.95	0.00	3.96	3.36	85	0.00	0.61		0.00	
5-Jul	34.67				0.96	0.00	3.98	3.37	84	0.00	0.62		0.00	
6-Jul	35				0.97	0.00	4.01	3.39	84	0.00	0.63		0.00	
7-Jul	35.33				0.98	0.00	4.03	3.40		0.00			0.00	
8-Jul	35.67				0.99	0.00	4.05	3.42		0.00			0.00	
9-Jul	36				1.00	0.00	4.08	3.43		0.00			0.00	

MSU Excel Irrigation Schedule Checkbook Method - Mendon 2014

Plant Available Water



Bolthouse North Updated.xlsm [Read-Only] - Microsoft Excel

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer Add-Ins

Normal Page Layout Page Break Preview Custom Views Full Screen

Workbook Views Show

Ruler Formula Bar

Gridlines Headings

Zoom 100% Zoom to Selection

New Window Arrange All Freeze Panes

Split Hide

View Side by Side Synchronous Scrolling Reset Window Position

Save Workspace Switch Windows

Macros

A19 fx =+ScheduleSetup!\$P\$8

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	N	O	P	Q
17	North						C:\Users\Clyndon\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\647V0KFC\Bolthouse North Updated.xlsm									
18	Date	Root Depth (inches)	Rainfall (inches) Red from Station	Irrigation added (inches)	Et	% Canopy Cover (Kc)	ET modified for crop (inches)	Capacity of root zone (inches)	Available Water in root zone (inches)	% capacity filled	Drainage (inches)	Additional capacity of root zone (inches)	Grower Entered Growth Stage	Proj ET	Actual and Estimated Cumulative GDD's	Estimated Growth Stage
56	23-Jun-16	15.06	0		0.155	0.82	0.13	1.36	1.15	85	0.00	0.21		0.00	641.10	V6
57	24-Jun-16	15.30	0		0.223	0.83	0.19	1.38	0.98	71	0.00	0.40		0.00	659.94	V6
58	25-Jun-16	15.55	0		0.242	0.85	0.21	1.40	0.80	57	0.00	0.60		0.00	681.16	V6
59	26-Jun-16	15.79	0.24		0.157	0.87	0.14	1.42	0.92	65	0.00	0.50		0.00	707.86	V6
60	27-Jun-16	16.04	0		0.225	0.88	0.20	1.44	0.75	52	0.00	0.70		0.00	729.96	V6
61	28-Jun-16	16.28	0	1	0.134	0.90	0.12	1.47	1.51	103	0.12	0.00		0.00	744.31	R1
62	29-Jun-16	16.40	0		0.209	0.91	0.19	1.48	1.33	90	0.00	0.15		0.00	758.15	R1
63	30-Jun-16	16.53	0		0.197	0.92	0.18	1.49	1.16	78	0.00	0.33		0.00	773.37	R1
64	1-Jul-16	16.65	0.43		0.164	0.93	0.15	1.50	1.45	97	0.00	0.05		0.00	785.87	R1
65	2-Jul-16	16.77	0		0.181	0.94	0.17	1.51	1.29	85	0.00	0.22		0.00	799.39	R1
66	3-Jul-16	16.89	0		0.206	0.95	0.20	1.52	1.10	73	0.00	0.42		0.00	815.75	R1
67	4-Jul-16	17.02	0		0.144	0.96	0.14	1.53	0.97	64	0.00	0.56		0.00	832.10	R1
68	5-Jul-16	17.14	0		0.18	0.98	0.18	1.54	0.81	53	0.00	0.73		0.00	854.26	R1
69	6-Jul-16	17.26	0	1	0.163	0.99	0.16	1.55	1.60	103	0.05	0.00		0.00	879.74	R1
70	7-Jul-16	17.39	0.43		0.152	1.00	0.15	1.56	1.61	103	0.27	0.00		0.00	903.83	R1
71	8-Jul-16	17.51	0.3		0.172	1.01	0.17	1.58	1.62	103	0.12	0.00		0.00	929.31	R1
72	9-Jul-16	17.63	0		0.142	1.02	0.14	1.59	1.49	94	0.00	0.10		0.00	943.75	R2
73	10-Jul-16	17.75	0		0.201	1.03	0.21	1.60	1.29	81	0.00	0.30		0.00	961.07	R2
74	11-Jul-16	17.88	0.44		0.125	1.04	0.13	1.61	1.62	100	0.00	0.00		0.00	986.27	R2
75	12-Jul-16	18.00	0.07		0.188	1.05	0.20	1.62	1.50	93	0.00	0.12		0.00	1014.15	R2
76	13-Jul-16	18.00	0.01		0.18	1.05	0.19	1.62	1.32	81	0.00	0.30		0.00	1040.92	R2
77	14-Jul-16	18.00	0		0.21	1.05	0.22	1.62	1.10	68	0.00	0.52		0.00	1066.53	R2
78	15-Jul-16	18.00	0		0.093	1.05	0.10	1.62	1.00	62	0.00	0.62		0.00	1083.86	R2
79	16-Jul-16	18.00	0	1	0.18	1.05	0.19	1.62	1.67	103	0.14	0.00		0.00	1099.37	R2
80	17-Jul-16	18.00	0		0.163	1.05	0.17	1.62	1.50	92	0.00	0.12		0.00	1119.12	R2
81	18-Jul-16	18.00	0		0.183	1.05	0.19	1.62	1.31	81	0.00	0.31		0.00	1143.19	R2
82	19-Jul-16	18.00	0		0.2	1.05	0.21	1.62	1.10	68	0.00	0.52		0.00	1165.61	R2

Ready

Count: 34

North



North

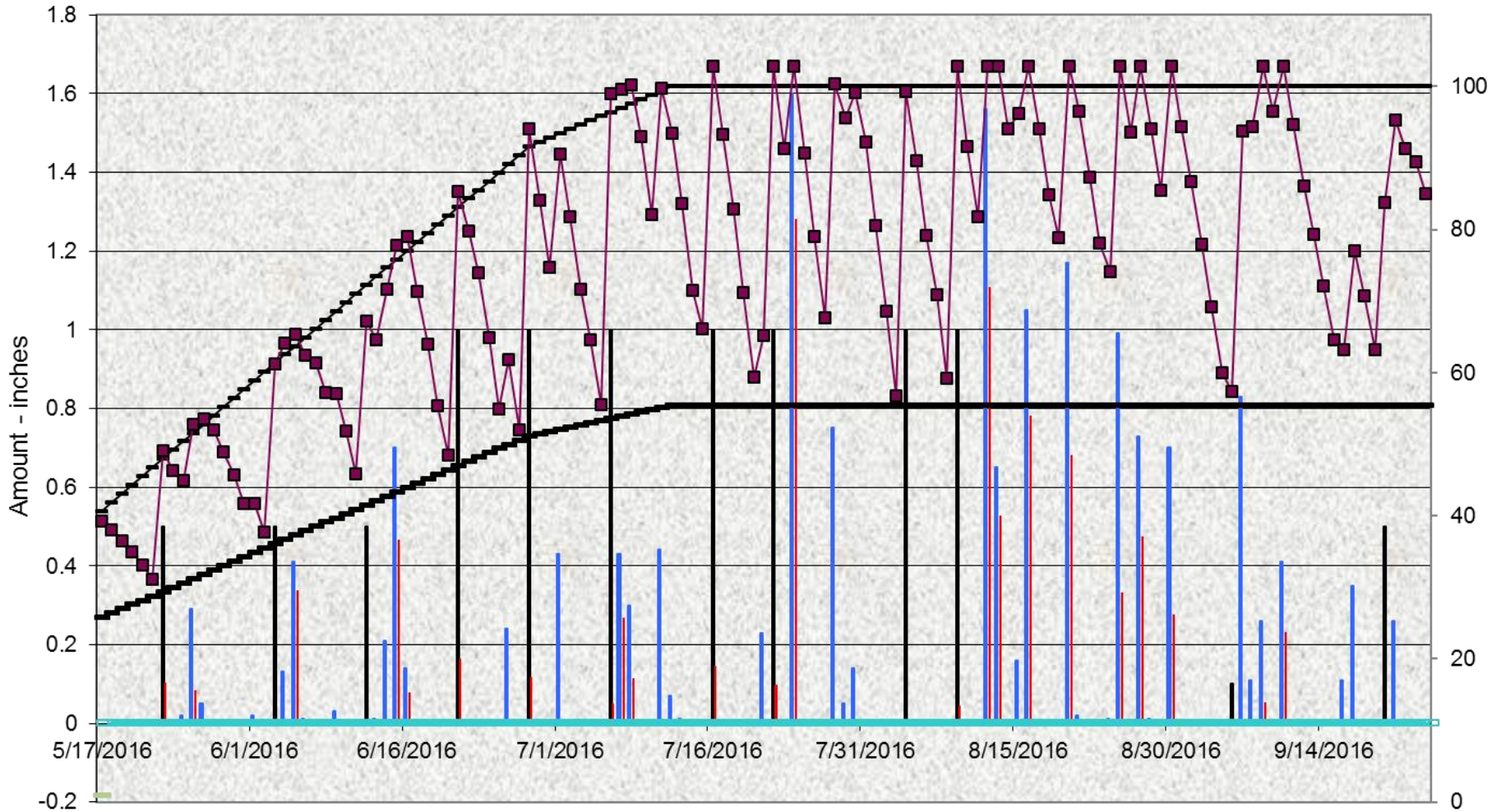
Station: Standale / Walker

Available Plant Water

TomatoesS18

Soil Series: Spinks

MSU Irrigation Scheduler



Rainfall (inches) 16.09	Irrigation added (inches) 9.1	Drainage (inches) #DIV/0!	Capacity in Root Zone
AW in Root Zone	% capacity line"/> % capacity 50	Projected AW	Target Soil Moisture

Michiana Irrigation Scheduler: Purdue Agronomy web site

–Est. From High/Low temp. & date

Irrigation Scheduler - J&L home 08.irr

Field, Crop & Soil Data Weather & Irrigation Data

Day	Date	Normal Temp.	High Temp.	Low Temp.	Rainfall (in.)	Irrigation (in.)
44	Jul 04	71	77	52		
45	Jul 05	71	84	52		
46	Jul 06	71	84	53		
47	Jul 07	71	84	66	.1	
48	Jul 08	72	83	71	.2	
49	Jul 09	72	76	60		
50	Jul 10	72	83	57		
51	Jul 11	72	86	61	.1	
52	Jul 12	72	82	69		1.0
53	Jul 13	72	77	62		

Get Temps

Import Data

New Open Reopen Save Calc Options ? Help About Exit

www.agry.purdue.edu/irrigation/IrrDown.htm

Enter the field's daily temperature, rainfall and irrigation data.

Michiana Irrigation Scheduler – out put

Preview Irrigation Schedule - J&L home 08.irr

Schedule Calculated For	Aug 01	Amount That Can Be Safely Added	-0.06 in.
Evapotranspiration Rate	0.23 in.	If No Rain, You Can Add 1 Inch In	5 days
Soil Profile Moisture Content	101 %	Estimated Water Loss For Season	3.01 in.

Day	Date	Temp. (°F)	Dev. from Normal	Rainfall (in.)	Irrigation (in.)	Soil Mois (%)	Soil Moisture (relative)	Yield with Irrigation	Yield w/o Irrigation
45	Jul 05	68	-3			96	+++++++	185	185
46	Jul 06	68	-3			91	++++++	185	185
47	Jul 07	75	+4	0.10		88	++++++	185	185
48	Jul 08	77	+5	0.20		87	+++++	185	185
49	Jul 09	68	-4			82	++++	185	185
50	Jul 10	70	-2			78	+++	185	185
51	Jul 11	74	+2	0.10		75	+++	185	185
52	Jul 12	76	+4		1.00	91	+++++++	185	185

Print

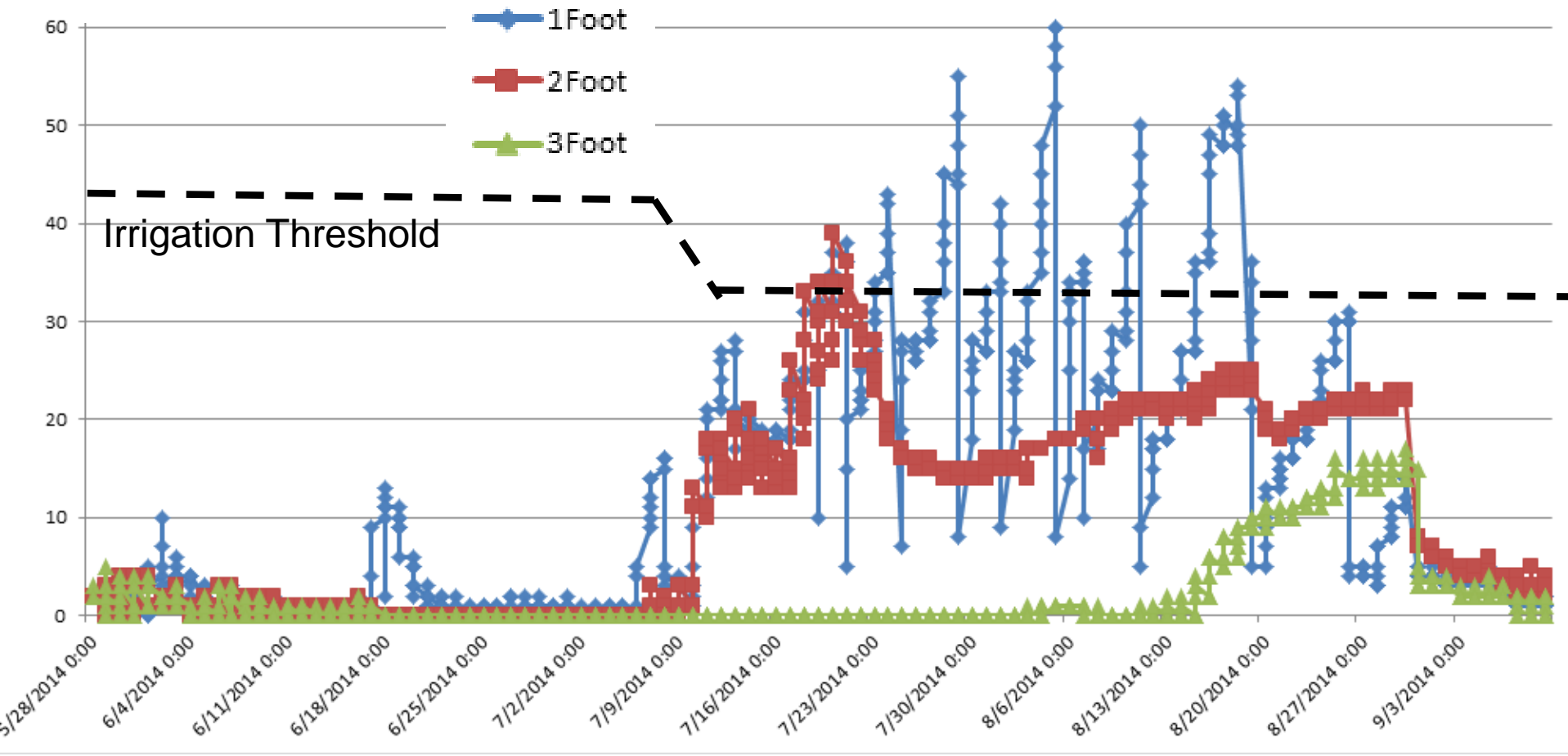
Close

www.agry.purdue.edu/irrigation/IrrDown.htm

Browse the daily calculations.



Watermark Soil Moisture, 2014

Soybean, Constantine MI



Probe or dig to find root depth, wetted front and soil moisture



Available Soil Moisture	Description	Illustration
0-25	Appears dry, will hold together if not disturbed, loose sand grains on fingers.	
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.	
50-75	Moist, forms a weak ball with loose and aggregated sand grains on fingers, darkened color, light uneven water staining on fingers.	

Scheduling by comparison

Irrigated portion of field should look better than the dry corners/area

Over water observation area should not look significantly better than the adjacent irrigated portion of field.

Probe and compare:

- Dry corners
- Over irrigated
- Normal irrigated field

- Soaker hose attached at pivot point
- 100% higher output sprinkler

