



MINIMET

Irrigation Scheduling (IMS)

IMS is an interactive computer program for the day-to-day scheduling of irrigation. It has been developed and tested for the irrigation of potatoes, sugar beet and a range of vegetable crops. The program uses a 'water balance' approach, that combines information on the crop, soil and weather to estimate a soil water deficit. Irrigation is scheduled according to an allowable deficit, set by the user, that may be varied through the season.

In order to run the program it is necessary to specify some background data relating to the crop and the soil. For the program to estimate that rate of water use by the crop daily data are required relating to the weather. These may be obtained from a number of sources such as an on farm weather station, local met stations (schools, colleges, airports, etc.) or the Meteorological Office. In addition, rainfall and irrigation applications must be measured each day on the farm.

Output

The output from the program consists of clear, concise information on when the next irrigation will be required, based on the current soil moisture status and the expected crop water use over the next 10 days. The output also suggests how to change your irrigation strategy if it rains.

System Requirements

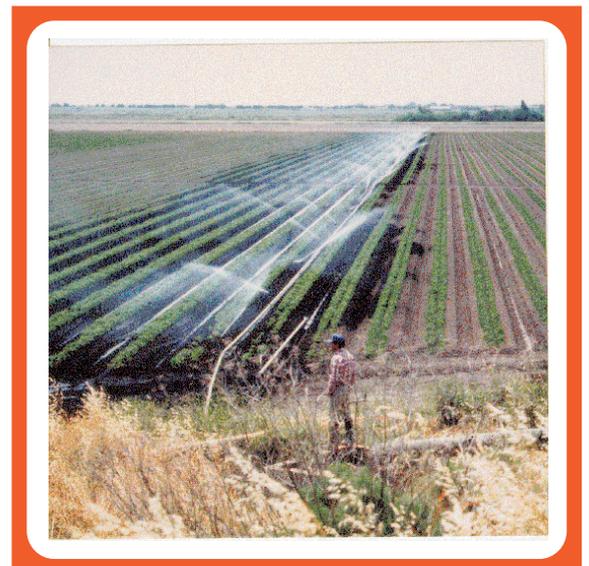
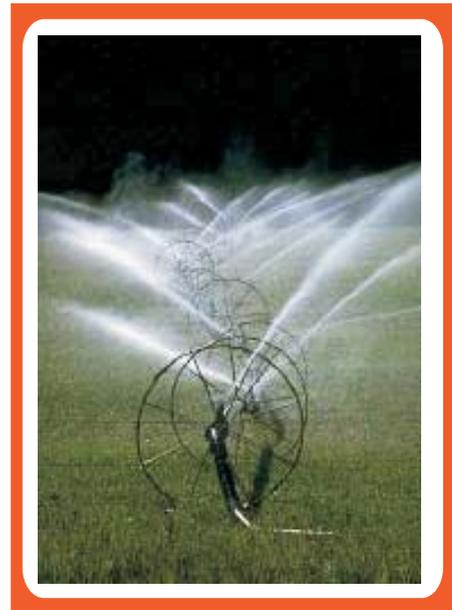
The DOS software will run on any PC compatible microcomputer. Output files are in ASCII format, which may be sent to any printer. The software is supplied on diskette, with an instruction manual.

Technical

Hess, T M, (1996) A microcomputer scheduling program for supplementary irrigation. Computers and Electronics in Agriculture 15:233-243

Further information

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