

IRRIGATION SCHEDULING – HOW TO

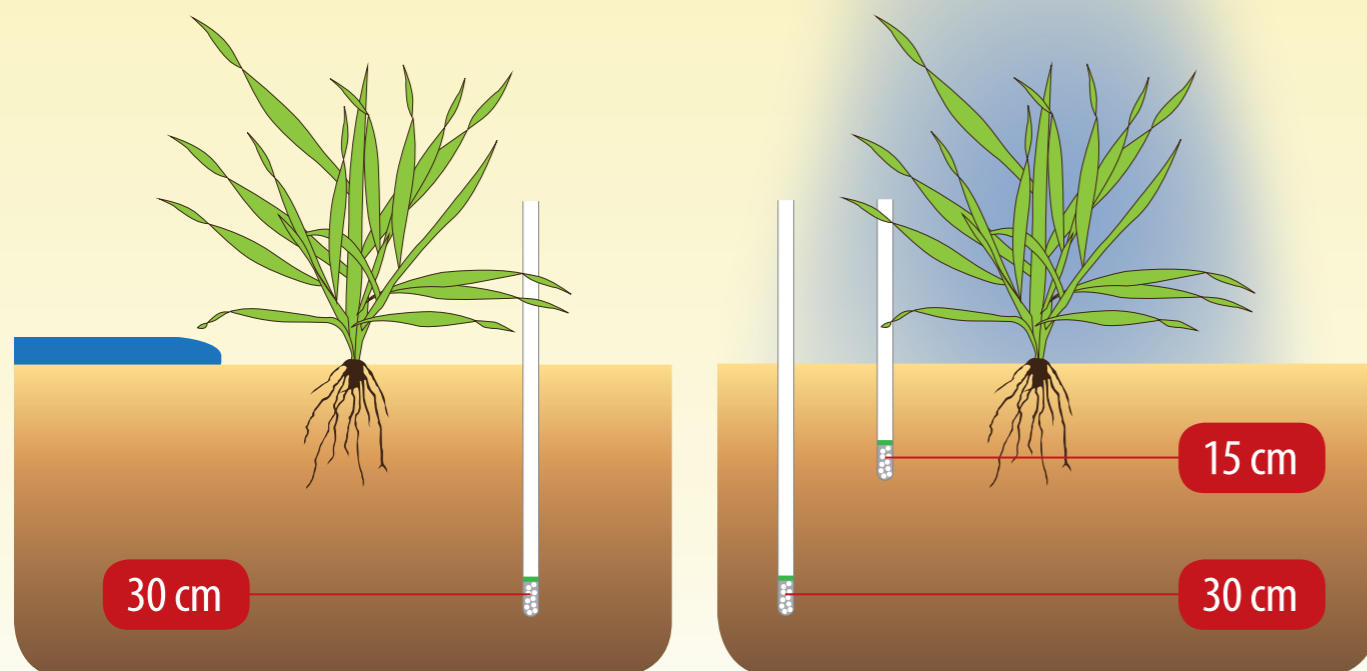
1. USING WATER POTENTIAL SENSORS

SURFACE IRRIGATION

IRRIGATE WHEN SENSORS AT
30 cm = -60 kPa

SPRINKLER IRRIGATION

IRRIGATE WHEN SENSORS AT
15 cm = -60 kPa
(Irrigate again if the water
does not reach 30 cm)



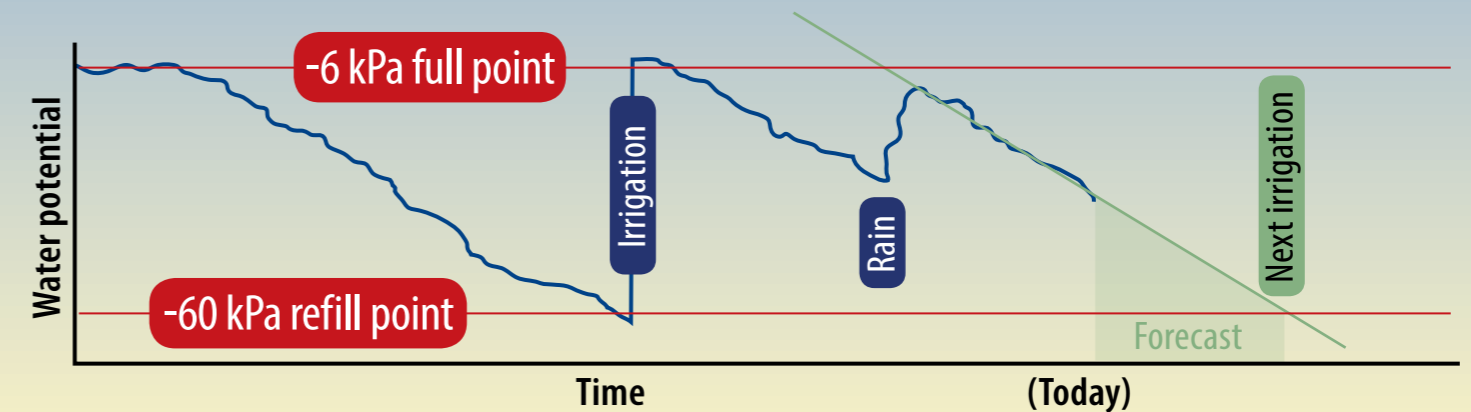
Installation

- Install three sensors at each depth – use each depth's average reading.
- Place the sensors in crop that is representative of the paddock.
- The sensors should ideally be in an area where the crop stresses first.

2. FORECASTING AND SCHEDULING IRRIGATIONS

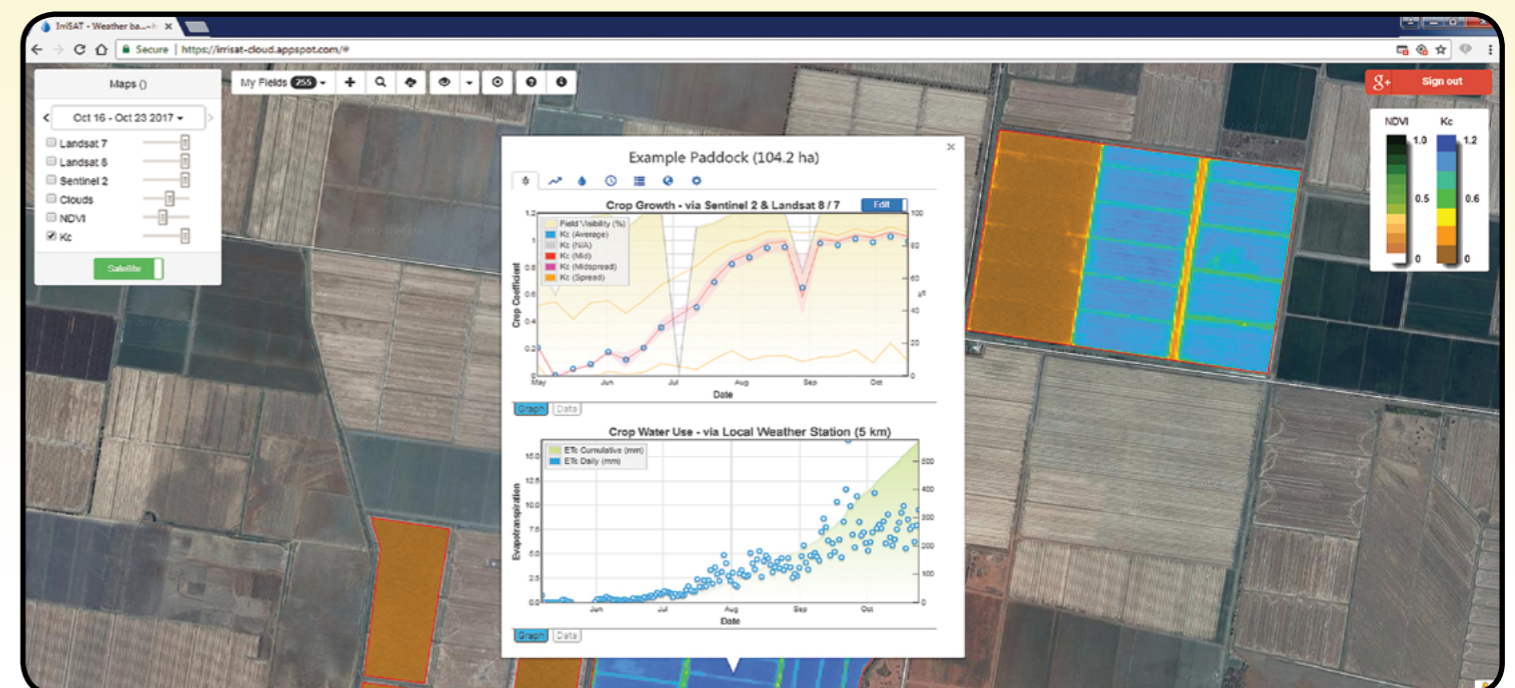
SOIL WATER POTENTIAL

Graphing the water potential will help to forecast when the next irrigation will be. Many loggers come with graphing software to make this easy.



CROP EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Evapotranspiration is a combination of both evaporation from the soil and transpiration from plants, it equates to the majority of water removed from within the active root zone. One tool that can be used to monitor crop evapotranspiration is IrriSAT. IrriSAT is an online decision support tool that uses satellite data to track crop water use, including a 7 day forecast. For a video explaining more search "IrriSAT" online.



TO SAVE WATER AND GROW MORE CROP

YOU MUST SCHEDULE YOUR IRRIGATIONS, TIMING IS KEY

IRRIGATE ON TIME.

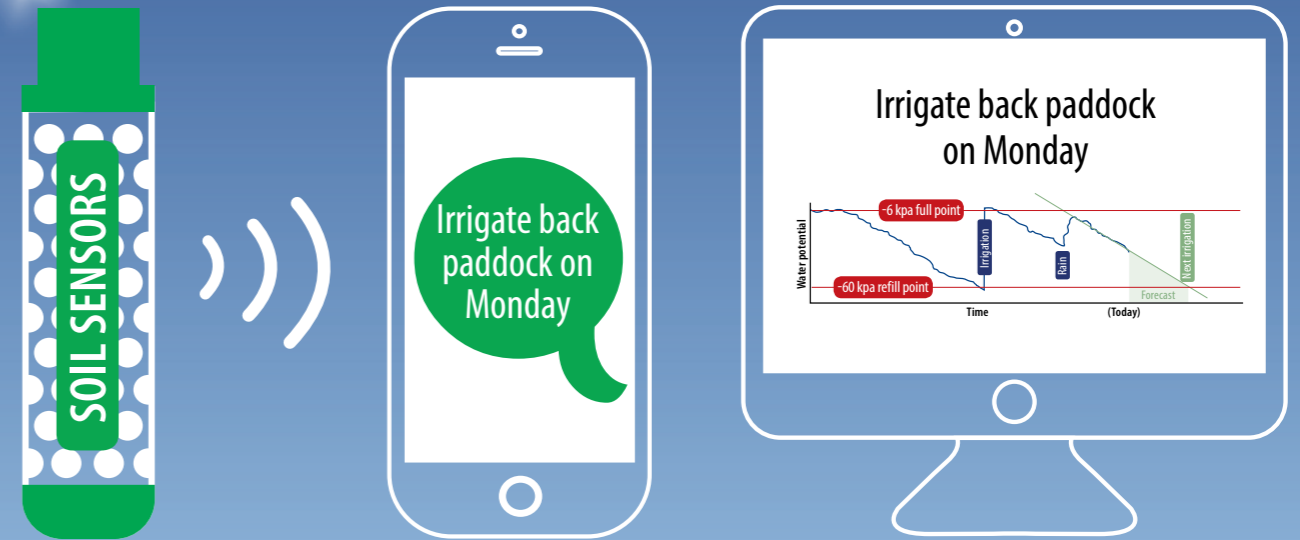
TOO LATE = **REDUCED YIELD**

TOO EARLY = **INCREASED WATER LOSSES**

THE OLD WAY



THE BETTER WAY



THESE TOOLS:

- Can't tell you when the next irrigation is due.
- Only tells you it's time to irrigate when it's already too late.

THESE TOOLS:

- Will tell you when the next irrigation is due.
- Always tells you it's time to irrigate before it's too late.