



# Oregon State University

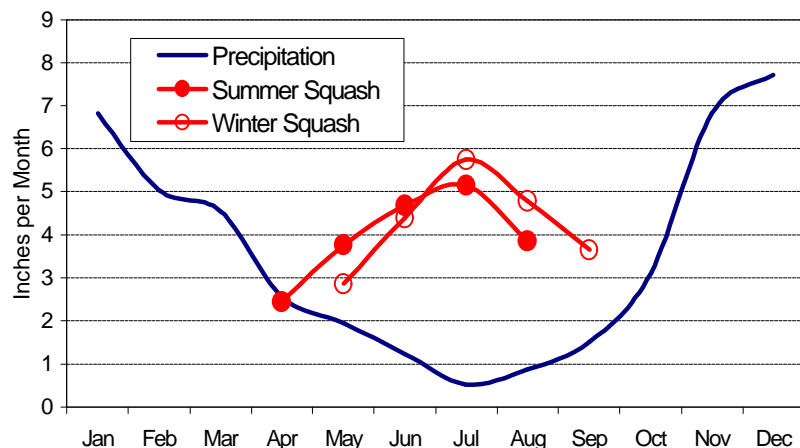
## Western Oregon

# Squash Irrigation Guide

Mario Hess, Bill Mansour, Jason Smesrud, and John Selker  
 Department of Bioresource Engineering  
 116 Gilmore Hall, (541) 737-6304  
 Corvallis, OR 97331-3906

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|  |  |
|--|--|
| Total Seasonal Evapotranspiration [in] | 18.2 (mean)                              |
| Peak Evapotranspiration Rate [in/day]  | 0.19                                     |
| Maximum Allowable Depletion [percent]  | 35 (summer squash)<br>60 (winter squash) |
| Critical Moisture Deficit Period       | Fruit sizing                             |



**Figure 1: Typical precipitation and squash evapotranspiration (ET) in the Willamette Valley. Tabulated values of ET are provided on the back of this sheet.**

Squash is sensitive to, and may be damaged by, excess moisture between seeding and emergence. Since summer squash root depth is relatively shallow, maintain soil moisture above 65% of the available soil water capacity in order to avoid detrimental moisture deficit. Winter squash requires uniform

irrigation for optimum growth and yield. Reduce irrigation as fruit reaches the harvest stage. Irrigation requirements depend on the length of the harvest period, and need to be coordinated with picking crew schedules.

The peak water use for summer squash is approximately 0.17 inches per day and for winter squash 0.19 inches per day.

On the back side of this page is a worksheet to aid in calculating irrigation schedules for squash. These calculations are most straightforward for those using side-roll, hand-move, or solid set sprinkler irrigation. For those with linear move or center pivot systems, all information applies except for the set time, which must be gauged to the tower travel speed. For basic schedule information, sprinkler nozzle diameters, operating pressures, and spacing and soil type must be known. To more accurately describe individual systems, the uniformity coefficient of the system and available water capacity of your soil is also needed. This worksheet was designed to be progressed through sequentially starting with item *a*). Equations listed under item headings use item letters for reference. Although the rooting depth is already supplied in the worksheet, if you have reason to believe your site is an exception (e.g. shallow restrictive layer), this may be altered. Evapotranspiration rate estimates for both summer and winter squash are listed in the worksheet.

### References

- Sanders, D.C. 1993. Vegetable Crop Irrigation, Leaflet No: 33-E (North Carolina State University, Raleigh).

*Note: For additional background information and references, see "Western Oregon Irrigation Guides: Background and References."*

# Irrigation Schedule Worksheet: Squash

Use values for your specific soil and depth range from the Appendix, if available.

Otherwise use Table 1 below.

## A. Determine Irrigation Interval

|                                       |    |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----|----------------------|
| Available Water Capacity [in/in]      | a. | _____                |
| Maximum Allowable Depletion [percent] | b. | $35^1 / 60^2$        |
| Effective Rooting Depth [in]          | c. | $24^1 / 36^2$        |
| Peak ET [in/day]                      | d. | 0.19                 |
| Maximum Irrigation Interval [days]    | e. | _____                |
| $e = (a * b * c) / (d * 100)$         |    |                      |
| Your Irrigation Interval [days]       | f. | <input type="text"/> |

*Note: f should be equal to or shorter than e.*

1:zucchini 2:winter squash

Table 1

| Soil Texture | AWC [in/in]  |
|--------------|--------------|
| Sandy        | 0.07 to 0.10 |
| Sandy Loam   | 0.09 to 0.15 |
| Loam         | 0.14 to 0.19 |
| Clay Loam    | 0.17 to 0.22 |
| Clay         | 0.20 to 0.25 |

## B. Determine Combined Efficiency

|                              |    |                      |
|------------------------------|----|----------------------|
| Uniformity Coefficient       | g. | _____                |
| Combined Efficiency          | h. | <input type="text"/> |
| $h = (0.01583 * g) - 0.6327$ |    |                      |

Table 2

| Irrigation System      | Uniformity Coefficient (*) |    |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----|
| Solid set              | 70                         | 63 |
| Hand move or Side-roll | 82                         | 74 |
| Pivot or Linear Move   | 90                         | 81 |
| Offset Managed Handm.  | 90                         | 81 |

## C. Determine Depth of Irrigation

| Monthly Evapotranspiration Rate [in/day] | Planting                | April                | May                  | June                 | July                 | August               | September            |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|  | i. Apr. 15 <sup>1</sup> | 0.08                 | 0.12                 | 0.16                 | 0.17                 | 0.12                 |                      |
|  | May 1 <sup>2</sup>      |                      | 0.09                 | 0.15                 | 0.19                 | 0.15                 | 0.12                 |
| Depth of Irrigation per Set [in]         | j.                      | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| $j = (i * f) / h.$                       |                         |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |

1:zucchini 2:winter squash

## D. Determine Set Time

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| Application Rate [in/hr]   | k. | _____   |
| <i>Measure or see Tables 3 and 4 below to determine your application rate.</i> |    |   |
|  |    | April    May    June    July    August    September |
| Irrigation Set Time [hrs]  | l. | <input type="text"/>                                |
| $l = j / k$  |    |   |

Table 3

| Pressure [psi] | Discharge [gpm]                       |     |      |      |       |      |       |       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-----|------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|
|                | Standard Tapered Nozzle Diameter [in] |     |      |      |       |      |       |       |
|                | 3/32                                  | 1/8 | 9/64 | 5/32 | 11/64 | 3/16 | 13/64 | 7/32  |
| 35             | 1.5                                   | 2.7 | 3.40 | 4.16 | 5.02  | 5.97 | 7.08  | 8.26  |
| 40             | 1.6                                   | 2.9 | 3.63 | 4.45 | 5.37  | 6.41 | 7.60  | 8.87  |
| 45             | 1.7                                   | 3.2 | 3.84 | 4.72 | 5.70  | 6.81 | 8.07  | 9.41  |
| 50             | 1.8                                   | 3.1 | 4.04 | 4.98 | 6.01  | 7.18 | 8.49  | 9.88  |
| 55             | 1.9                                   | 3.3 | 4.22 | 5.22 | 6.30  | 7.51 | 8.87  | 10.30 |

Table 4

| Sprinkler Spacing [ft] -by- [ft] |    | Application Rate [in/hr]   |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|----------------------------------|----|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                  |    | Discharge per Nozzle [gpm] |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|                                  |    | 2                          | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 8    | 10   |
| 20                               | 20 | 0.48                       | 0.72 | 0.96 | 1.20 | 1.44 | 1.93 | 2.41 |
| 20                               | 40 | 0.24                       | 0.36 | 0.48 | 0.60 | 0.72 | 0.96 | 1.20 |
| 30                               | 30 | 0.21                       | 0.32 | 0.43 | 0.54 | 0.64 | 0.86 | 1.07 |
| 30                               | 40 | 0.16                       | 0.24 | 0.32 | 0.40 | 0.48 | 0.64 | 0.80 |
| 30                               | 50 | 0.13                       | 0.19 | 0.26 | 0.32 | 0.39 | 0.51 | 0.64 |
| 40                               | 40 | 0.12                       | 0.18 | 0.24 | 0.30 | 0.36 | 0.48 | 0.60 |
| 40                               | 50 | 0.10                       | 0.14 | 0.19 | 0.24 | 0.29 | 0.39 | 0.48 |
| 40                               | 60 | 0.08                       | 0.12 | 0.16 | 0.20 | 0.24 | 0.32 | 0.40 |

(\*) If your sprinkler spacing/discharge combination falls into gray-shaded area, use uniformity coefficient from the right, also gray-shaded column. Otherwise use values from the left column.

How to use these tables:

