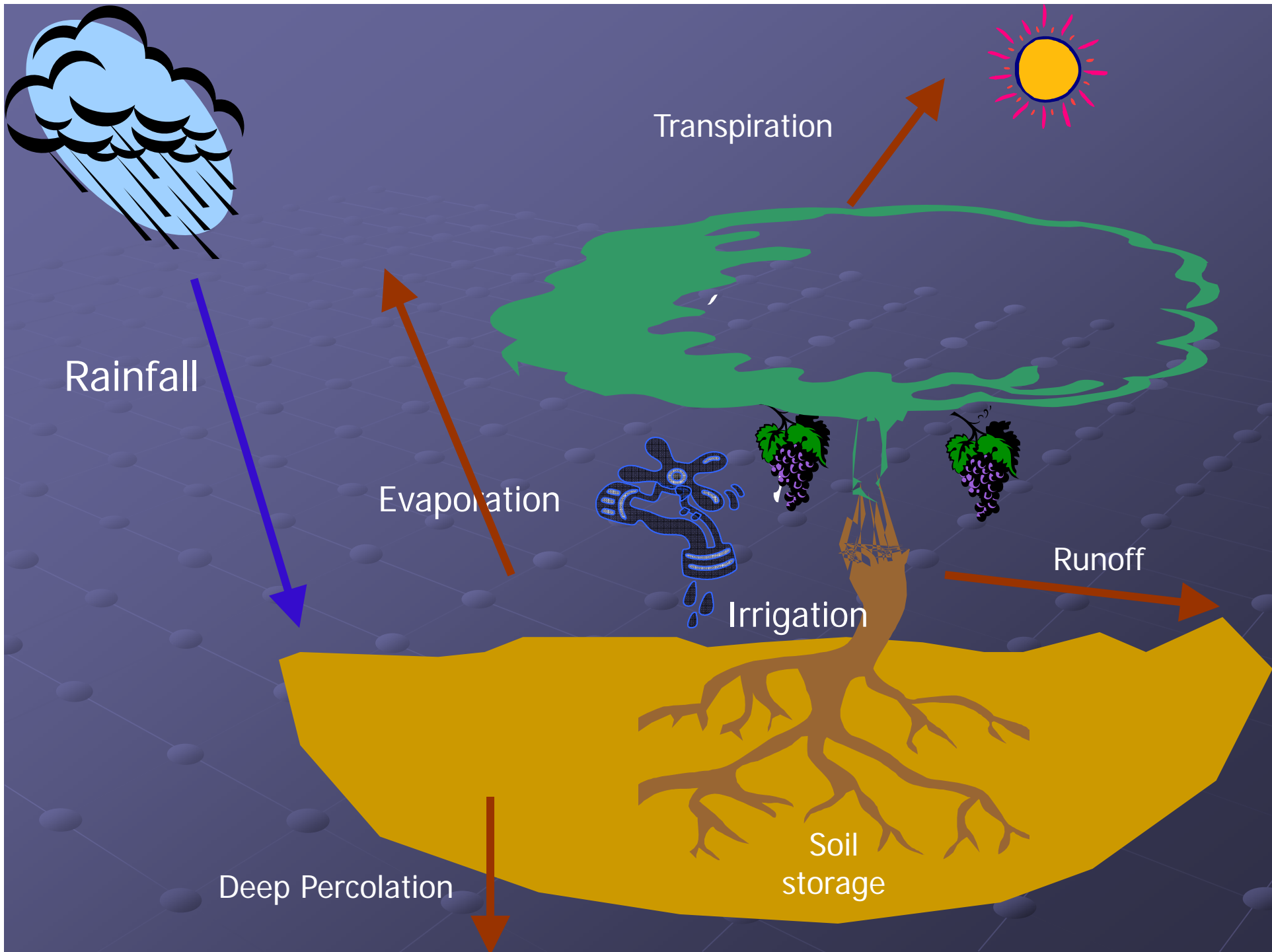


# Irrigation strategies for dry times: getting the most from every drop

Terry Prichard  
Water Management Specialist  
Dept. Land, Air, and Water Resources  
UC Davis

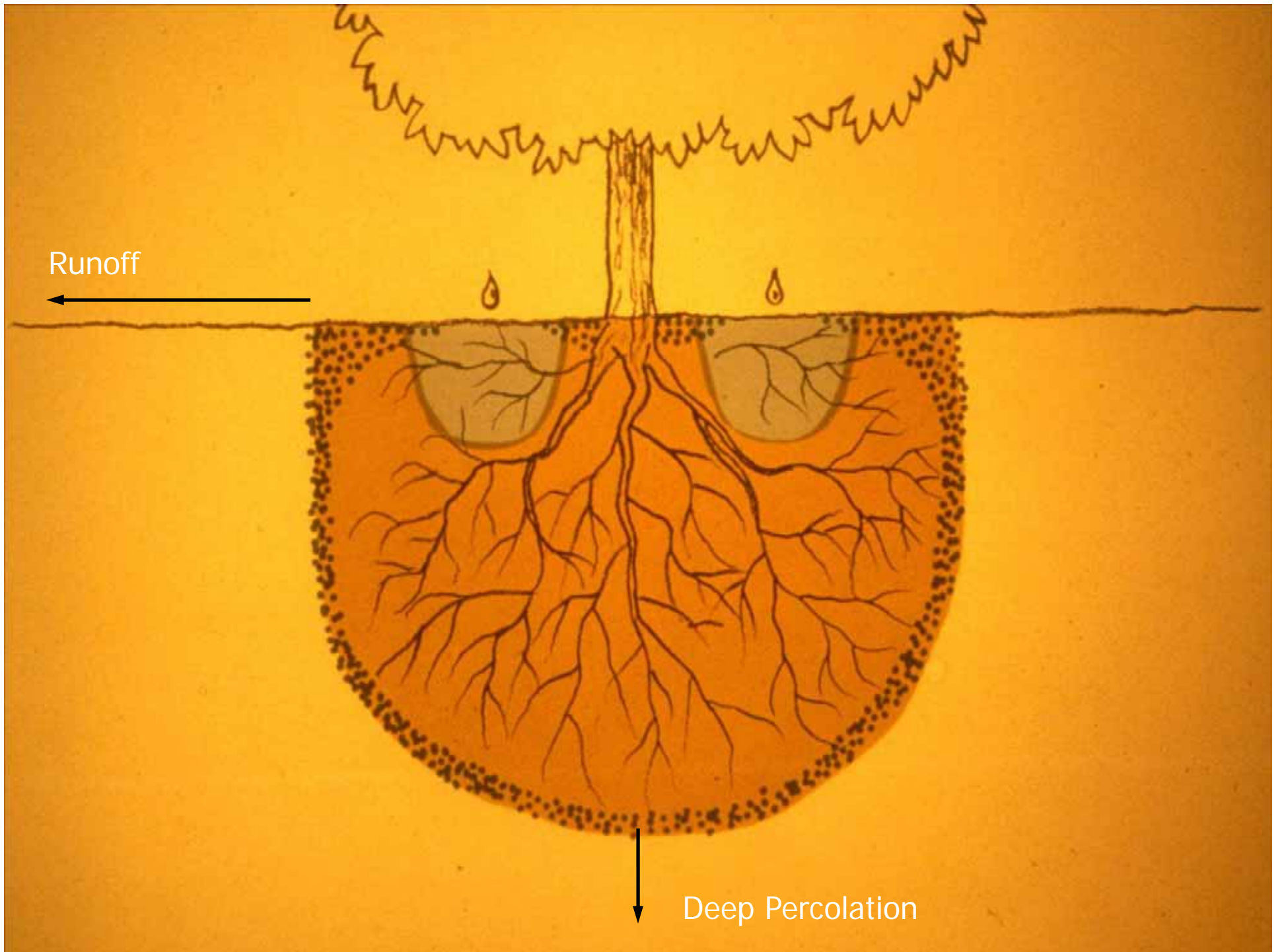


# Cutting Back

- Eliminate Water Losses
  - Runoff
  - Deep Percolation
  - Middles Use
  - Evaporation
- Maximize Distribution Uniformity
- Reduce Transpiration

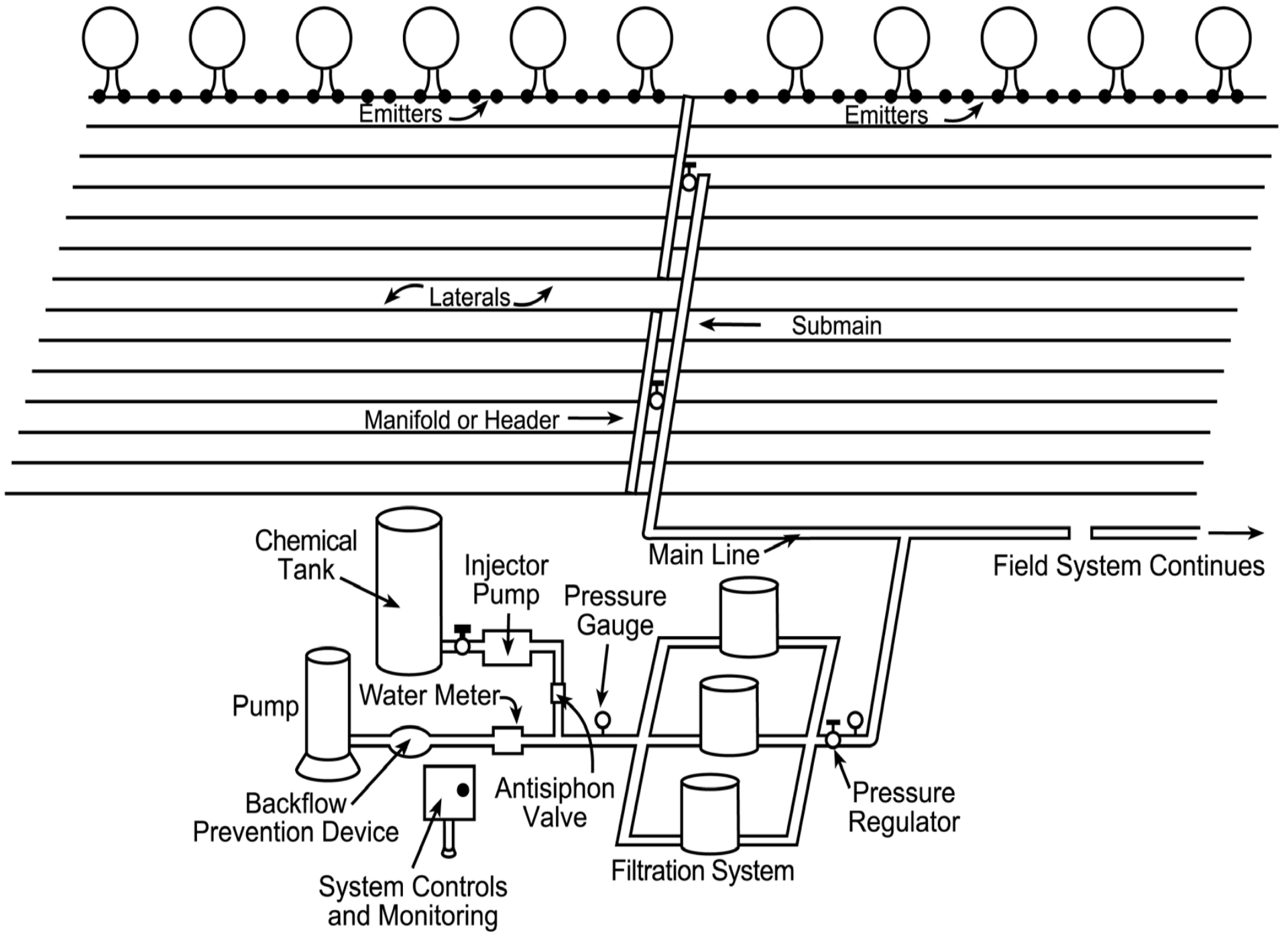




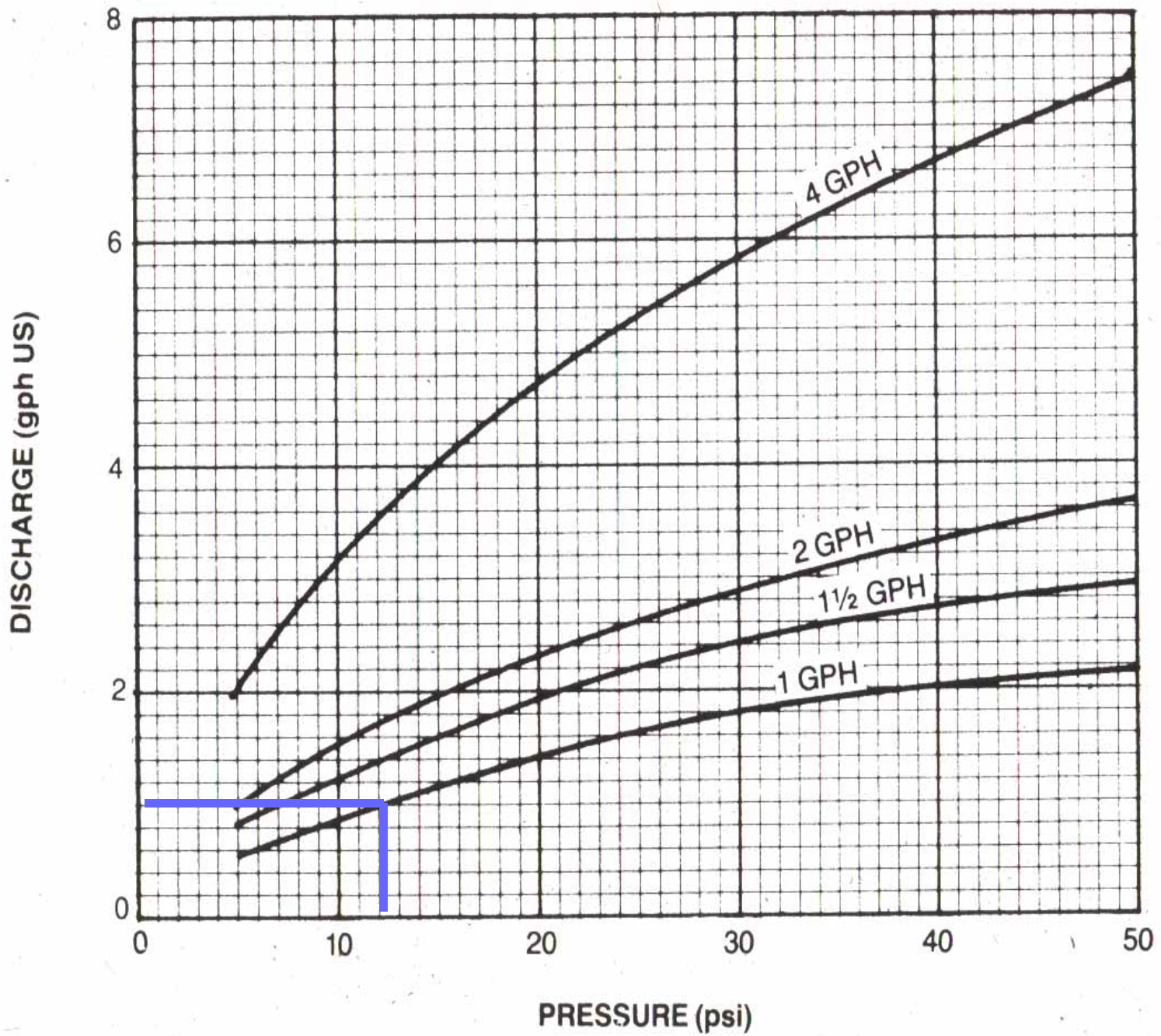


# Distribution Uniformity





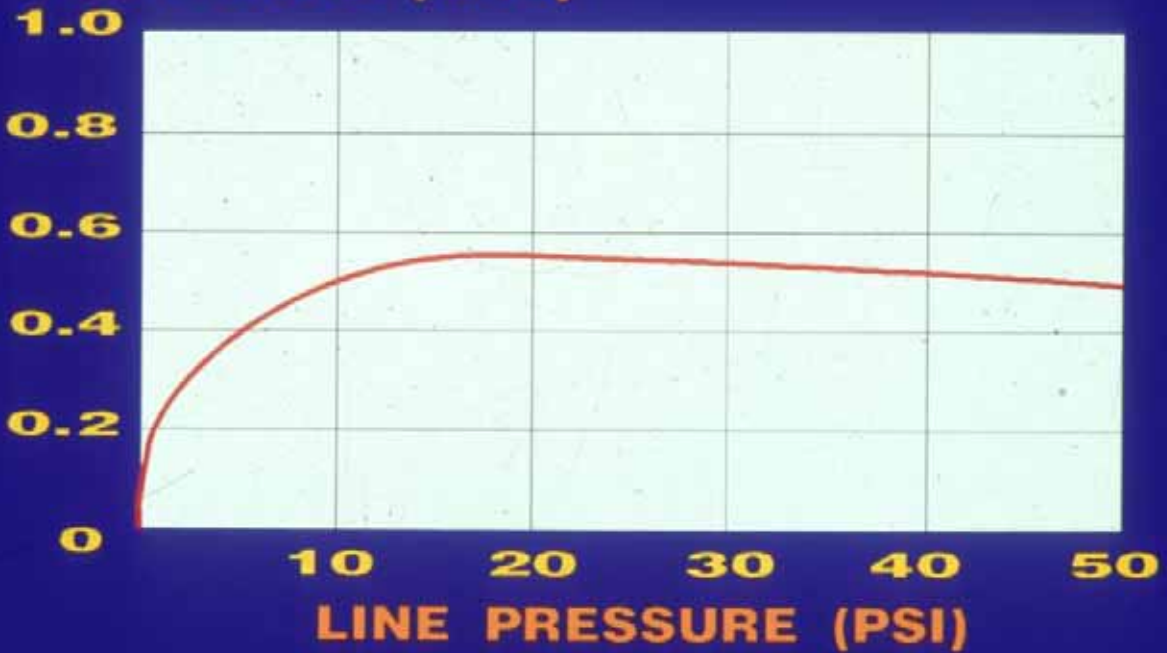




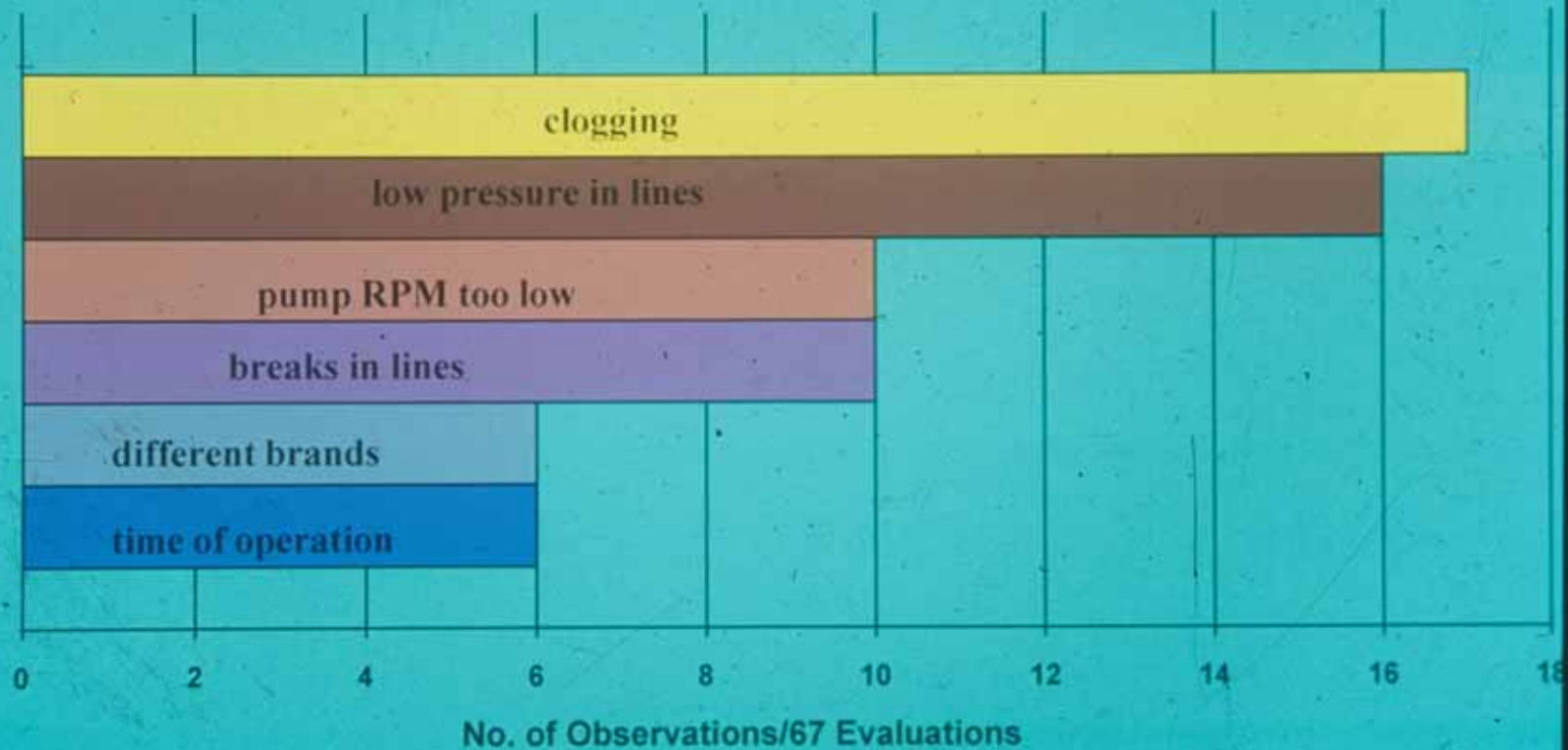


# EMITTER PERFORMANCE

FLOW RATE (GPH)



# Problems with Low-Volume Systems









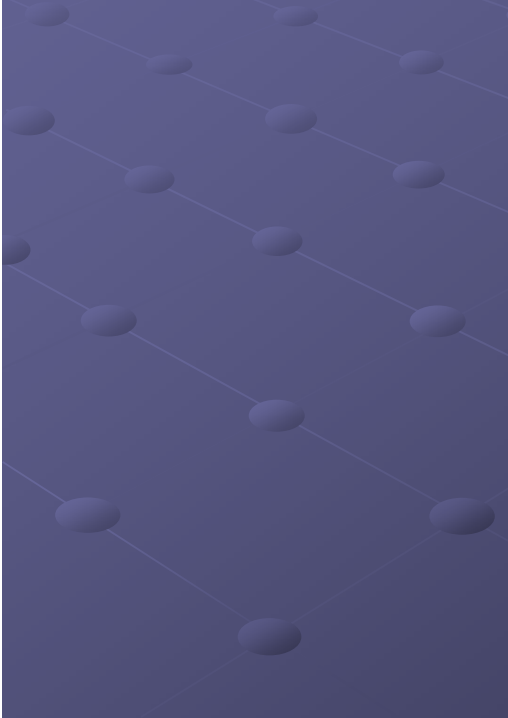
# Reducing Transpiration

- Reduce the water supply to less than full water use

Remove Vineyard floor vegetation

Deficit Irrigation







# Deficit Irrigation

- Supplying vines with less irrigation water than they can use.
- Causing reduced soil moisture availability
- Causing vine water stress

Purpose: Produce Quality Fruit



# Precision Micro-irrigation



Most strategies to improve fruit  
quality involve some level of:

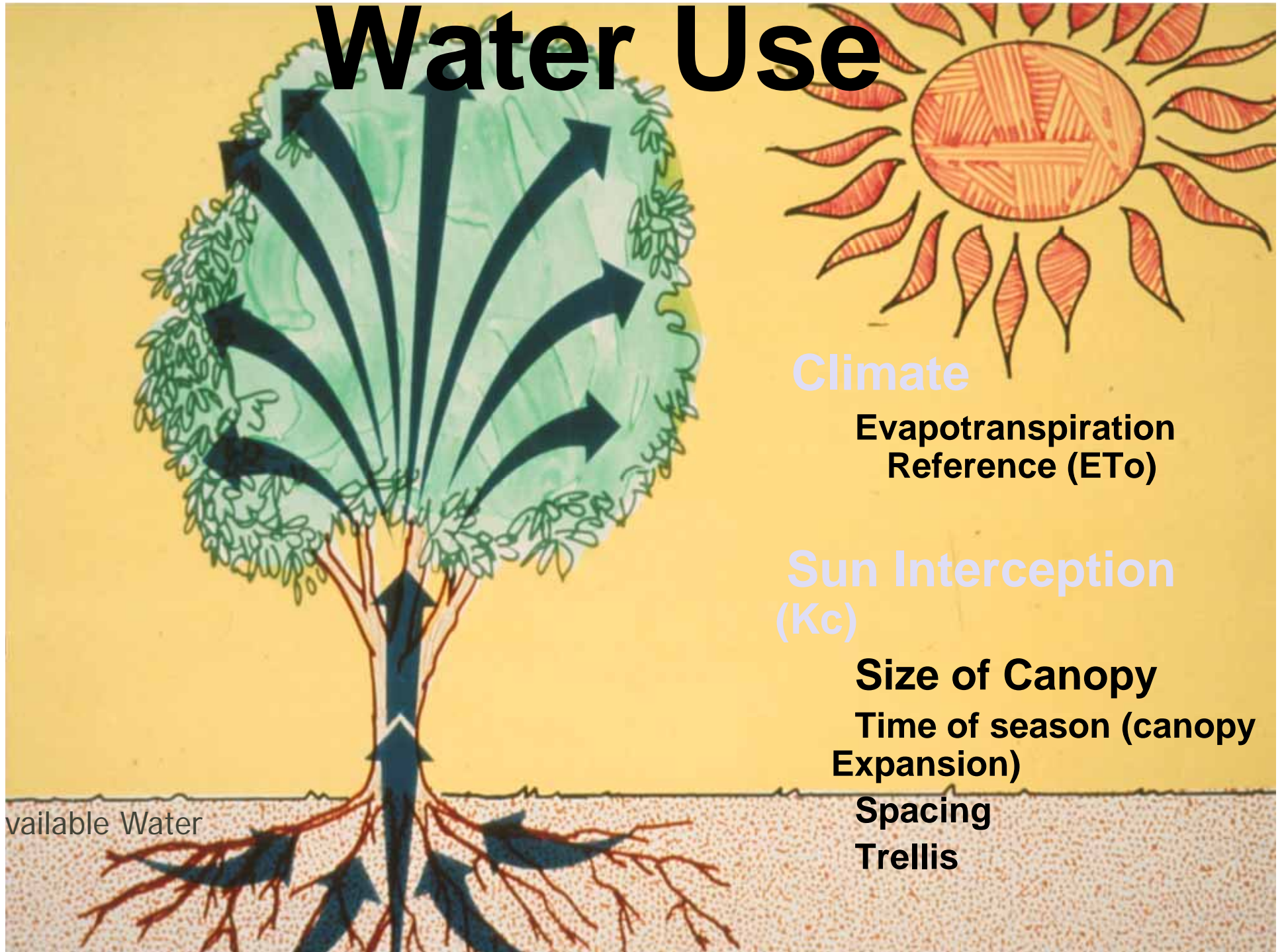
Vine Water Deficits Created by  
Withholding Irrigation



# Low Water Source Availability

How to parcel out available supply

# Water Use



available Water

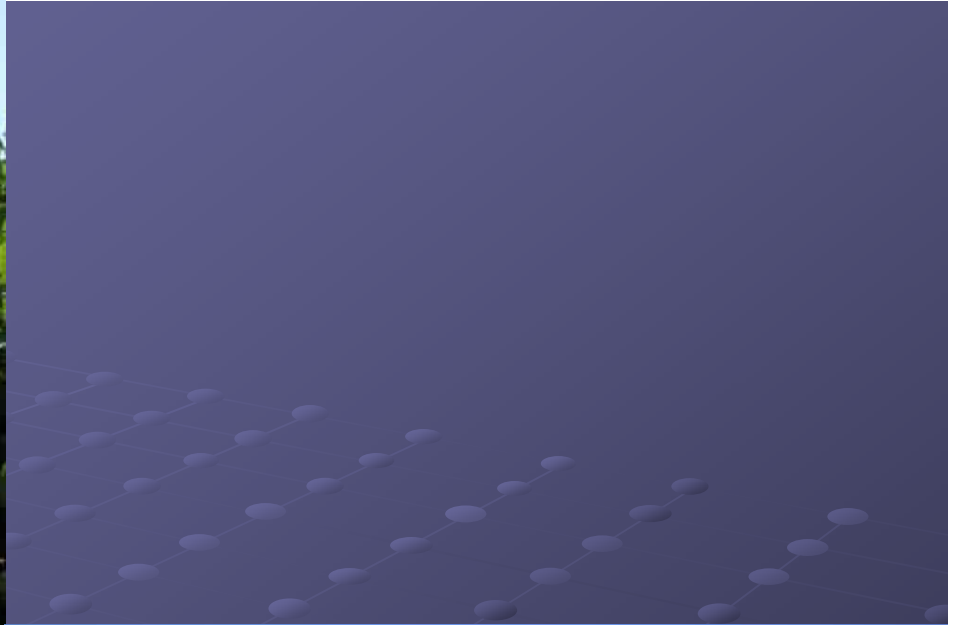
Climate

Evapotranspiration  
Reference (ET<sub>o</sub>)

Sun Interception  
(K<sub>c</sub>)

Size of Canopy  
Time of season (canopy  
Expansion)  
Spacing  
Trellis







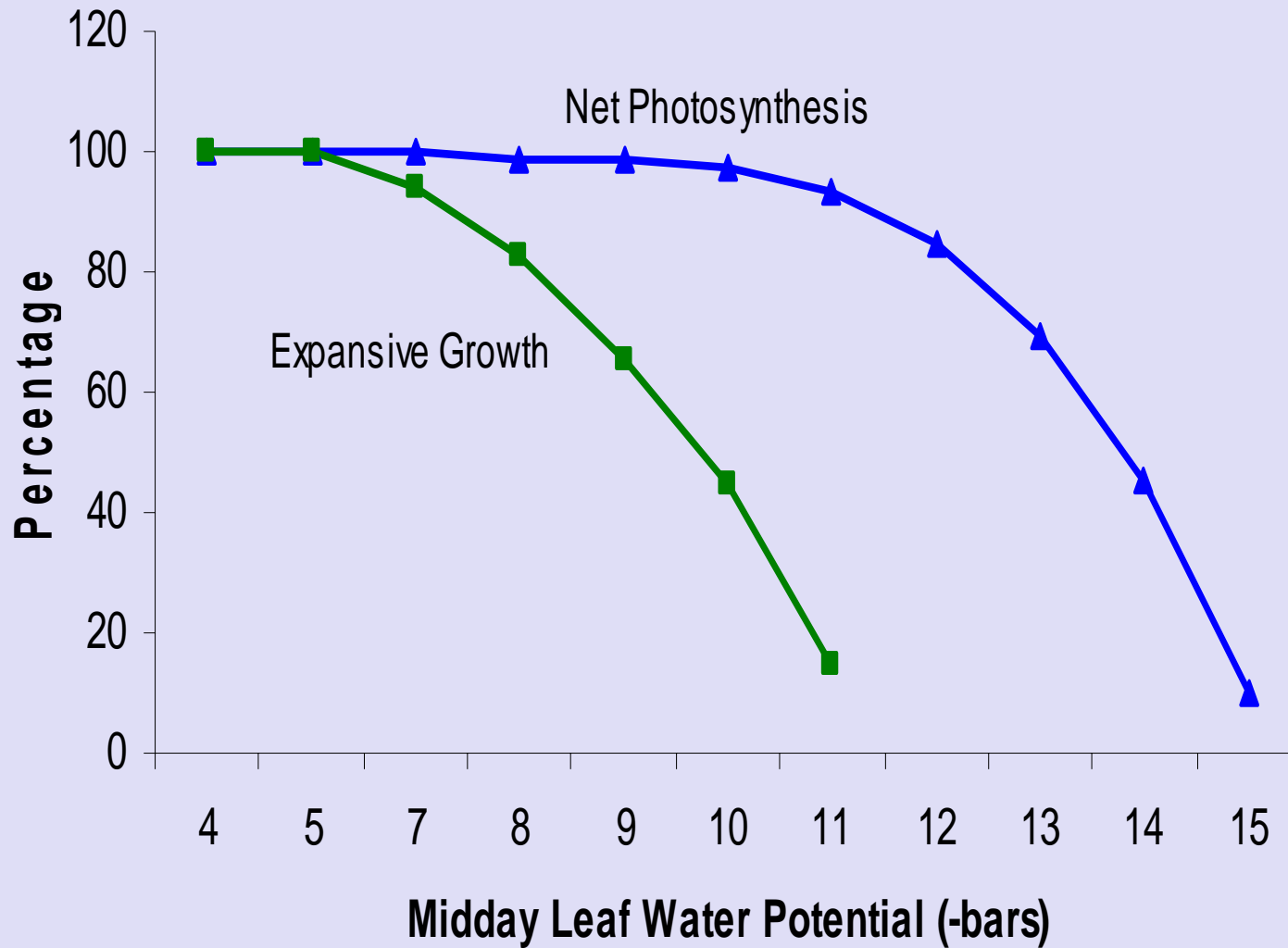


# *Moderate Water Deficits*

- Reduce vegetative growth
  - Shoot length
  - No. of lateral shoots

Increase light in canopy

# Relative Rate vs. Leaf Water Potential



# Syrah Deficit Irrigation

<u>Variable</u>	% of ETc		
	55	69	100
<u>Berry size</u>	% of 100% treatment		
	79	85	100
<u>Fruit load</u>	82	91	100
<u>Yield</u>	64	77	100

From TLP









# Timing of Water Deficits

## ● Early season

- bud break through set

## ● Mid season

- set through veraison

## ● Late season

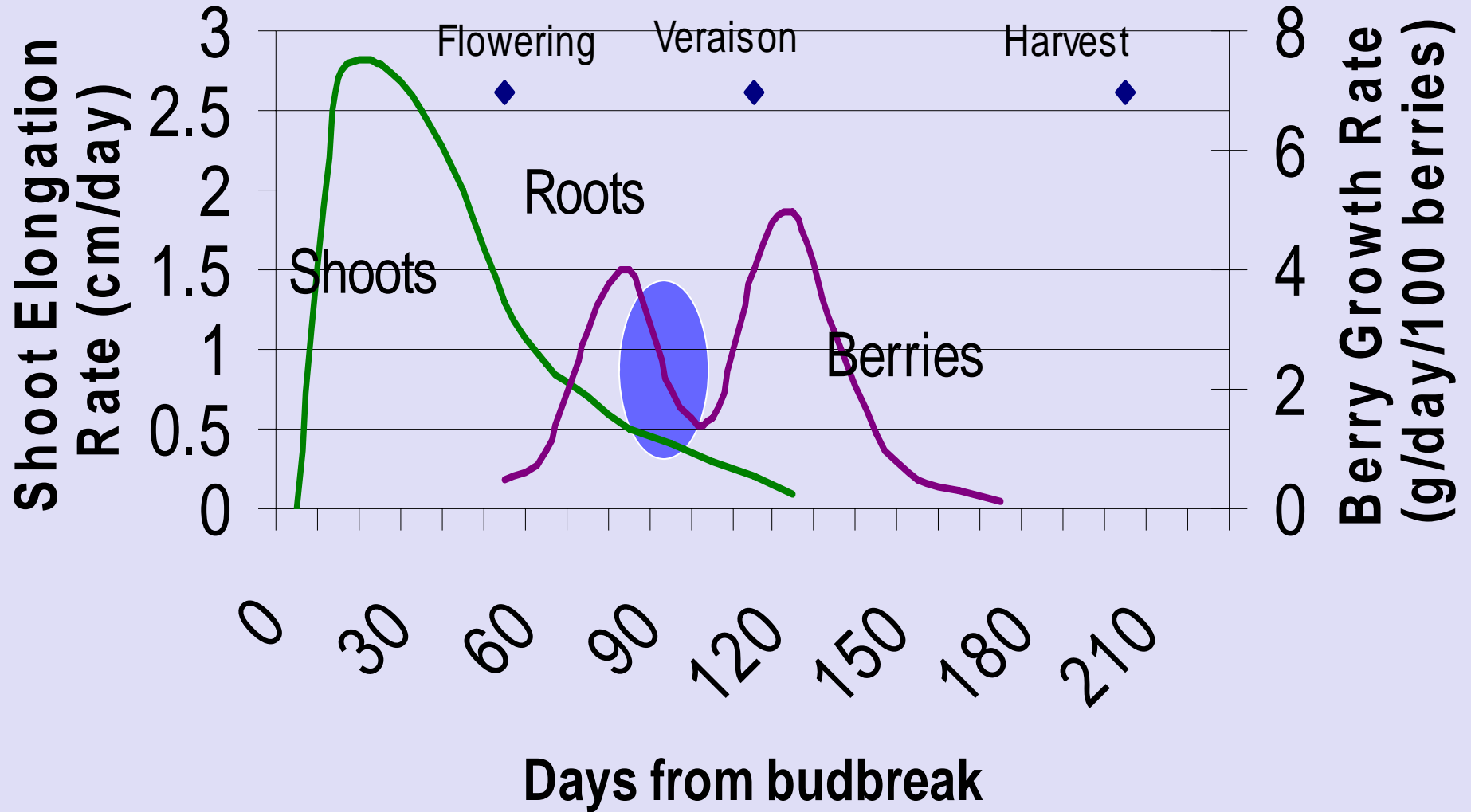
- veraison through harvest

## ● Postharvest

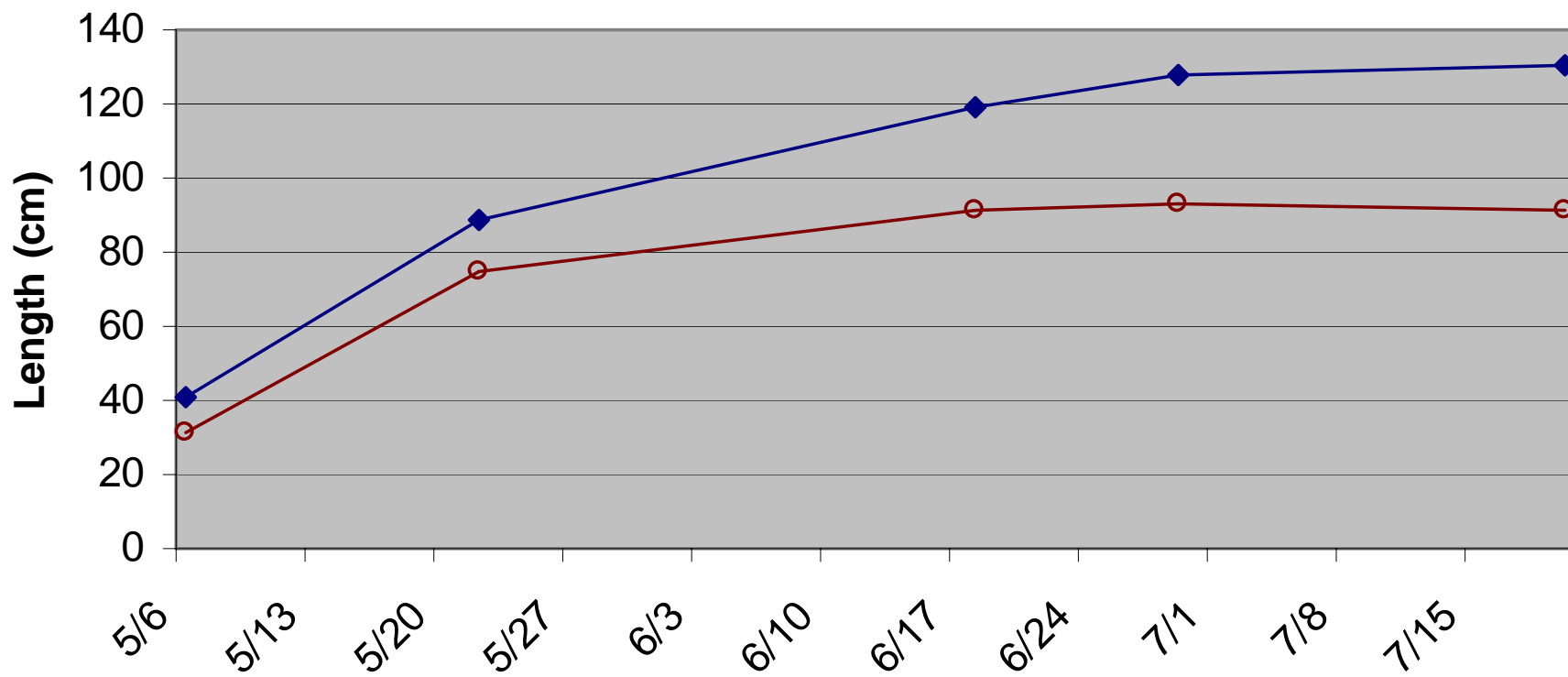




# Shoot, Root, and Berry Growth Rate



### Shoot Length, Merlot 1999



# Stress Threshold Regulated Deficit Irrigation

- Measure plant stress
- Ability to estimate full potential vine water Use
- Micro-irrigation System



# Select, Bag, and Cut the Petiole

When to begin irrigation



Place leaf in bag in chamber





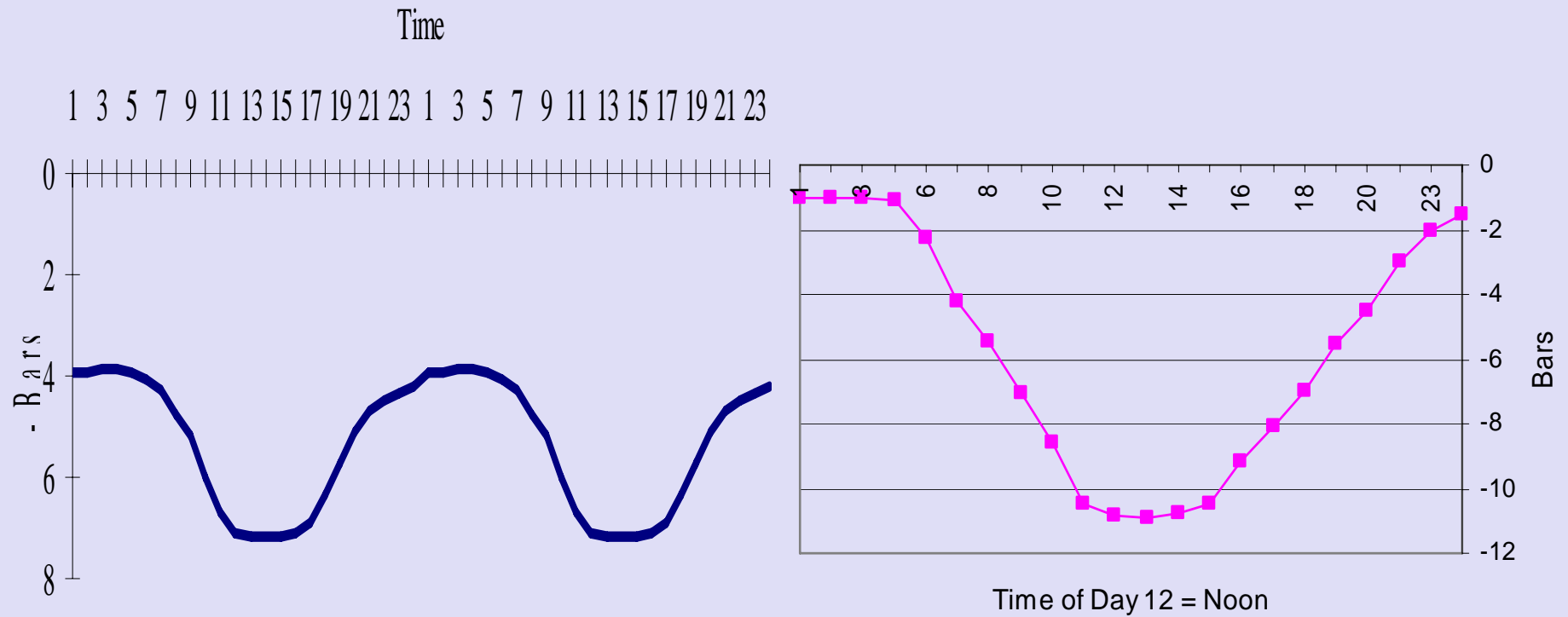








# Diurnal Leaf Water Potential





# Pressure Bomb

## Factors which Influence Readings

- When to sample (Solar Noon  $\pm$  1.5)
- No. of Vines
- No. of Leaves (2/vine)
- Leaf Selection (young/fully expanded)
- Leaf bagging (before excising)
- Rate of Pressure Increase (3sec/bar)
- Leaf Care (breaking veins)

*Table F-2. Levels of winegrape water deficits measured by mid-day leaf water potential*

1	less than -10 Bars	no stress
2	-10 to -12 Bars	mild stress
3	-12 to -14 Bars	moderate stress
4	-14 to -16 Bars	high stress
5	above -16 Bars	severe stress

# Stress Threshold + RDI

- Begin irrigation at a specific leaf water potential “threshold”
- After threshold, irrigate at fraction of full water use





# *When to begin Irrigation*

---

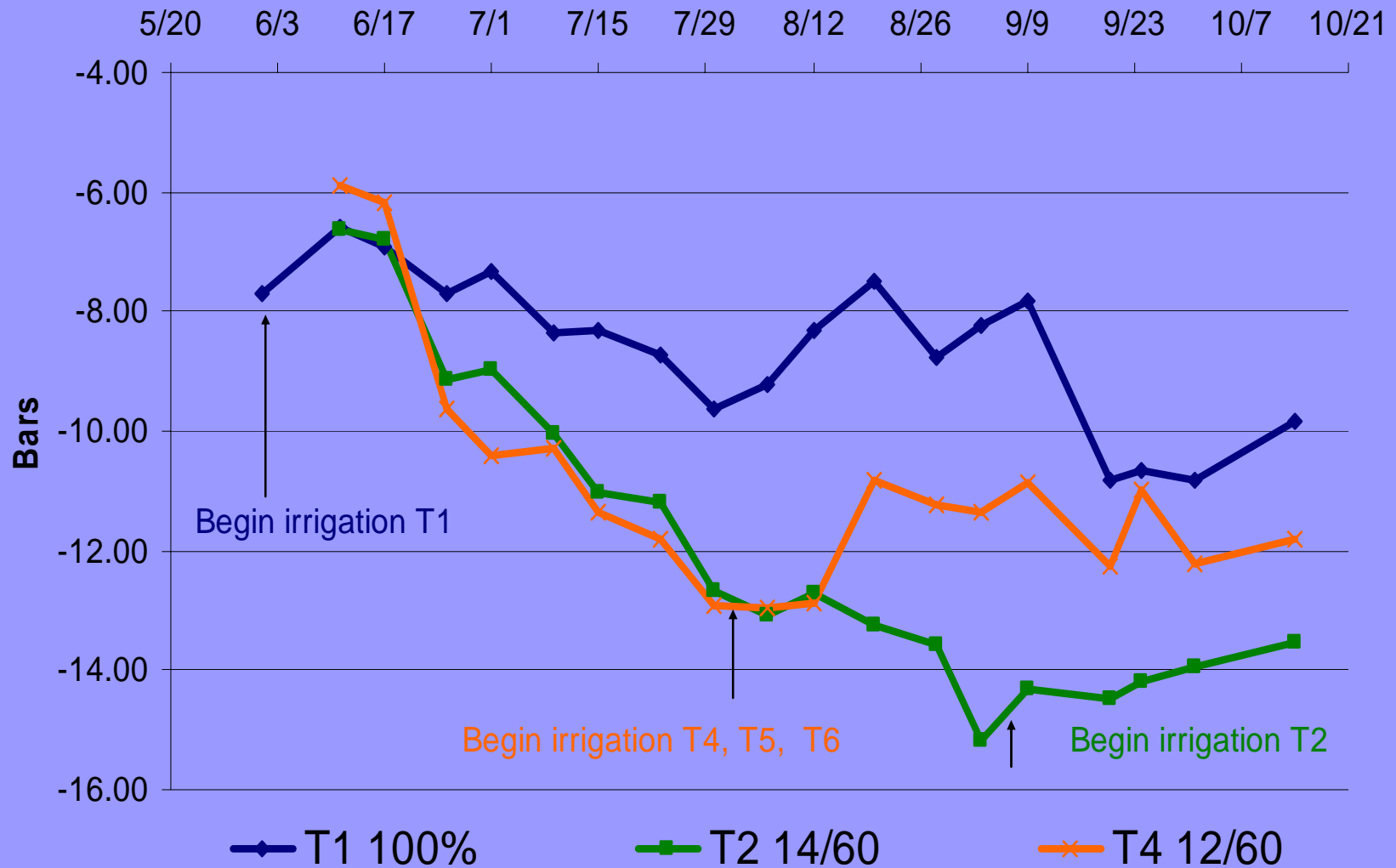
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Stress Threshold Method

leaf water potential threshold

-12 to -14 bars

# Mid-day Leaf Water Potential Hopland Cabernet 2000



# Tip Ratings

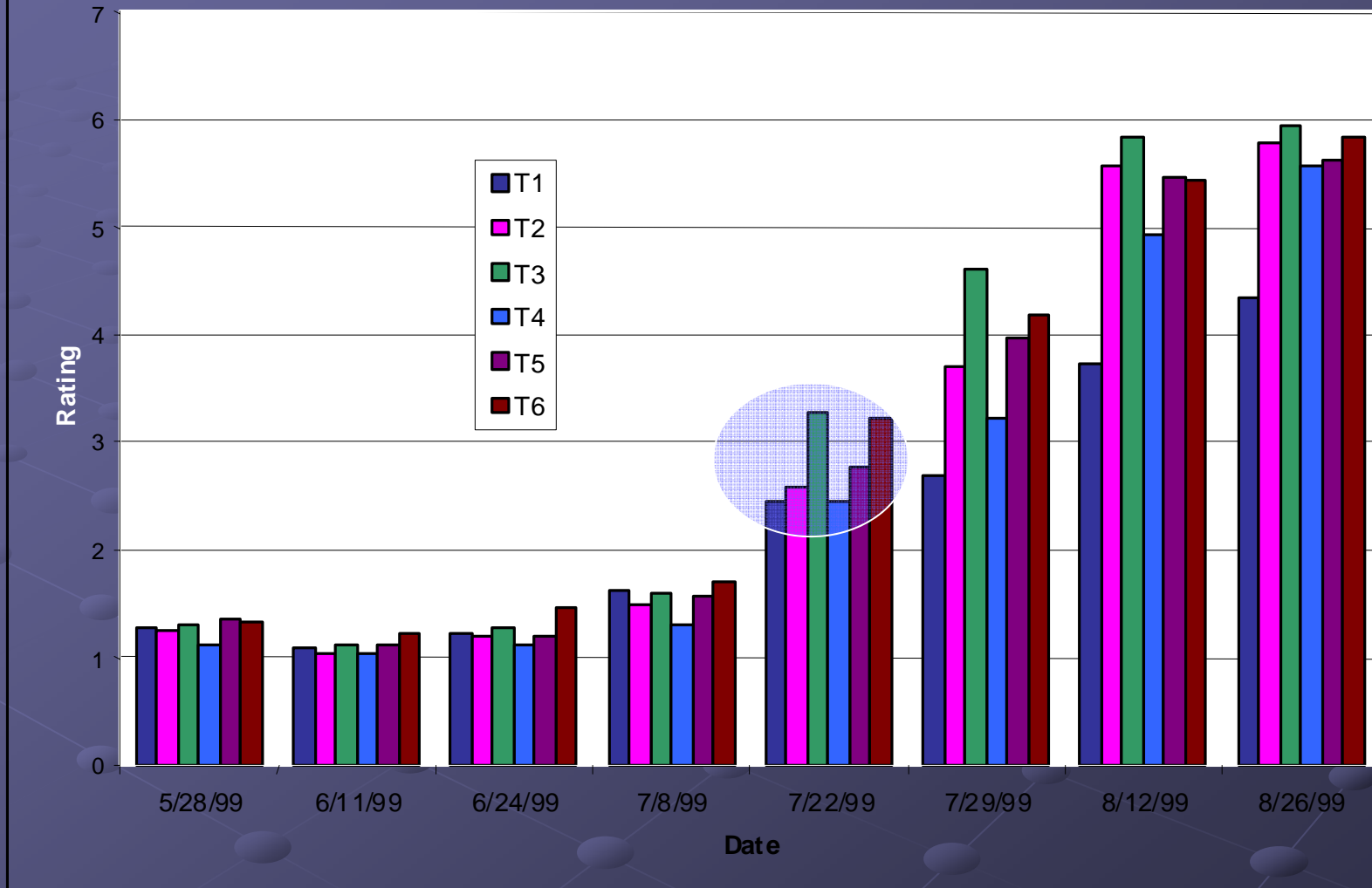
- 1 Tendrils longer than tip
- 2 Tendrils even with tip
- 3 Tendrils behind tip
- 4 Tendrils yellow/withering
- 5 Tendrils gone
- 6 Tip dead







*Shoot tip ratings, Cabernet Sauvignon, 1999 Hopland*

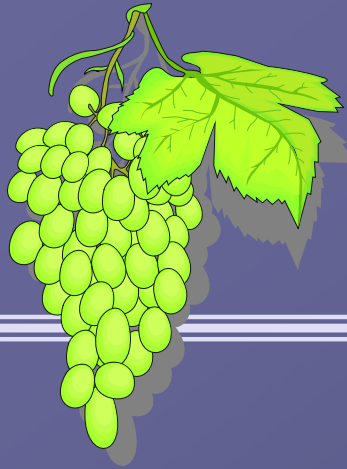


# When to Begin irrigation

- Soil water depletion level
- Specific soil water content

● Year	Water content (Inches in soil profile)	MDLWP
● 98	3.4	-12
● 99	3.8	-12
● 2000	2.4	-12





# *How Much Water*

## Regulated Deficit

After threshold a fraction of full vine  
water use

Full vine water use x RDI %

RDI % --- 35 - 60%

# Post Threshold RDI %

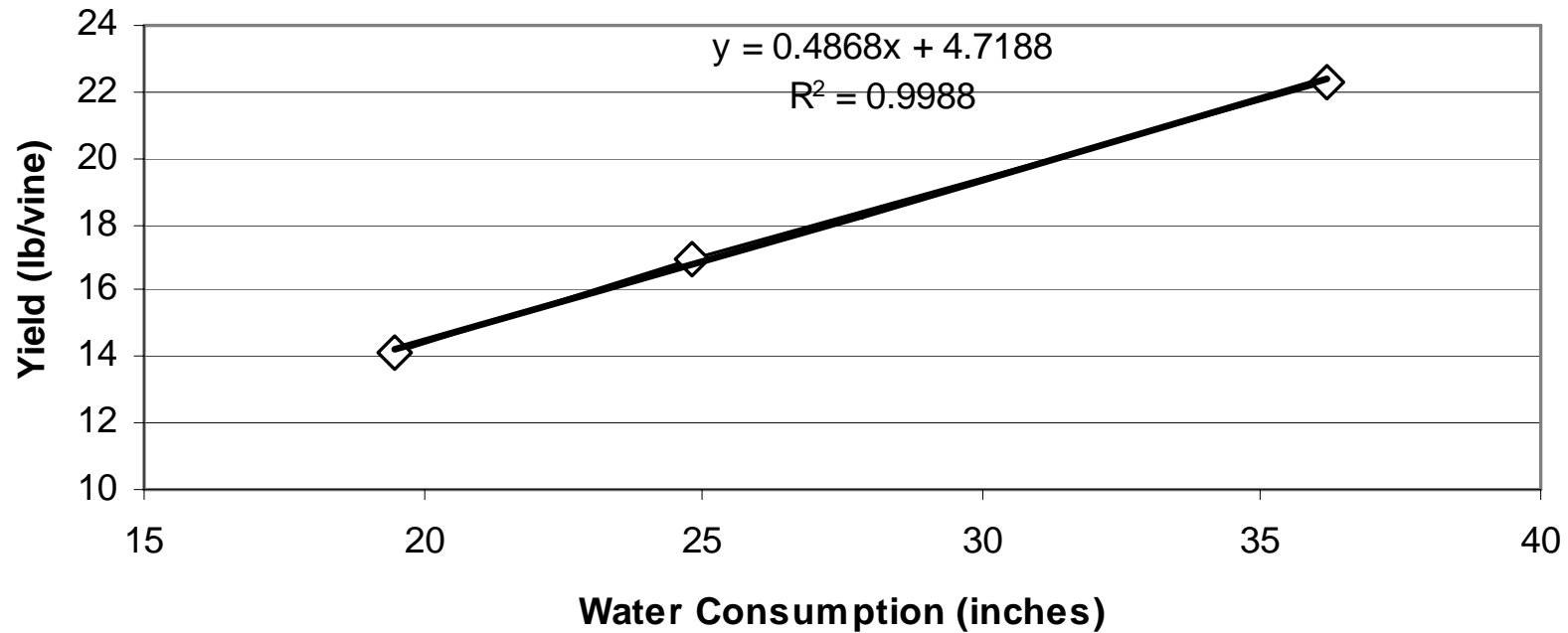
Prevent new vegetative growth

Provide fruit cover

Continued photosynthesis

# Response to increased irrigation is linear

Yield as a function of water consumption Syrah 2005-2008 Galt





# How Much To Apply

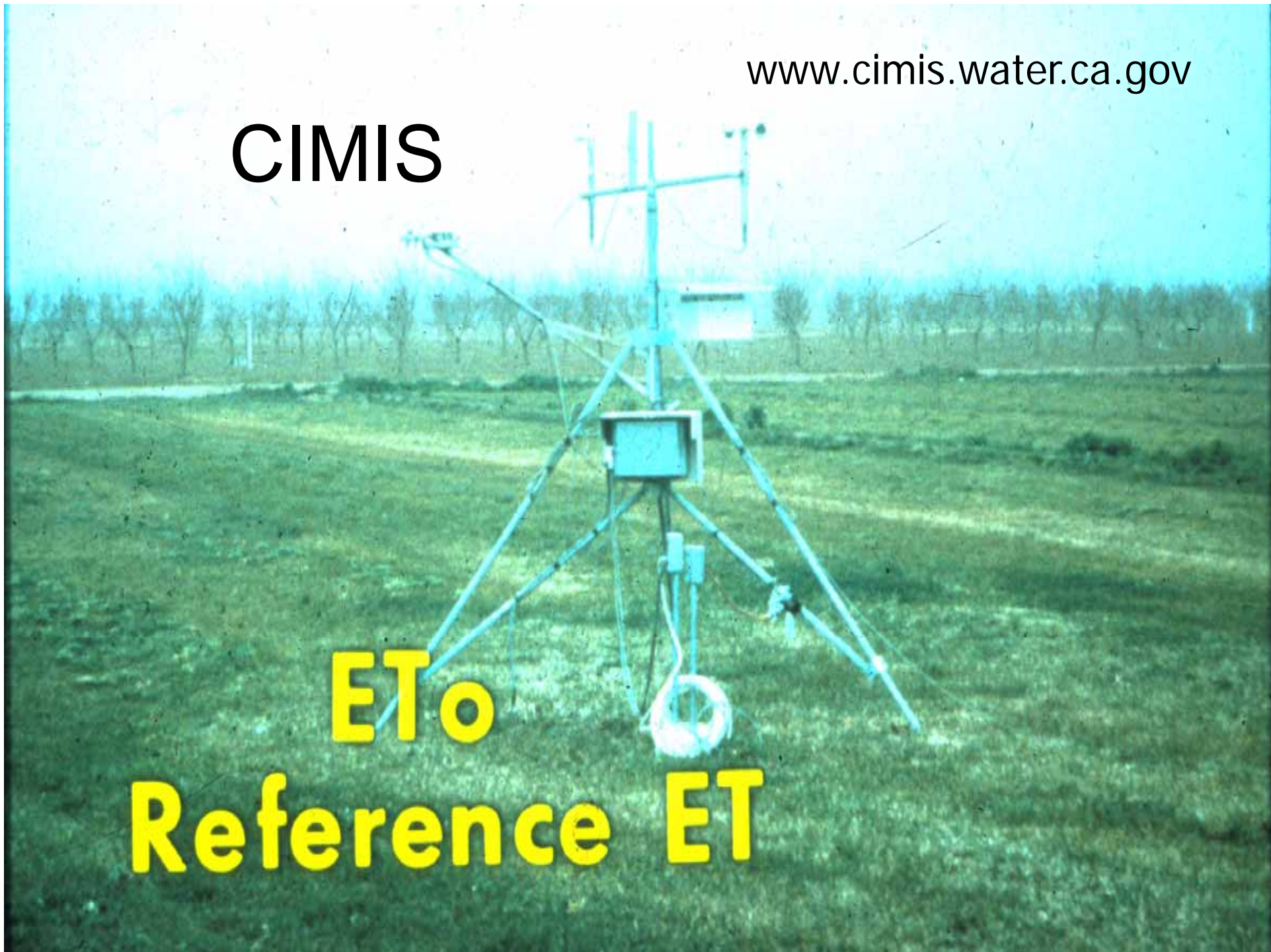
- Full Potential Water Use X RDI%
- $ET_o \times K_c = \text{Full potential Water Use}$

[www.cimis.water.ca.gov](http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov)

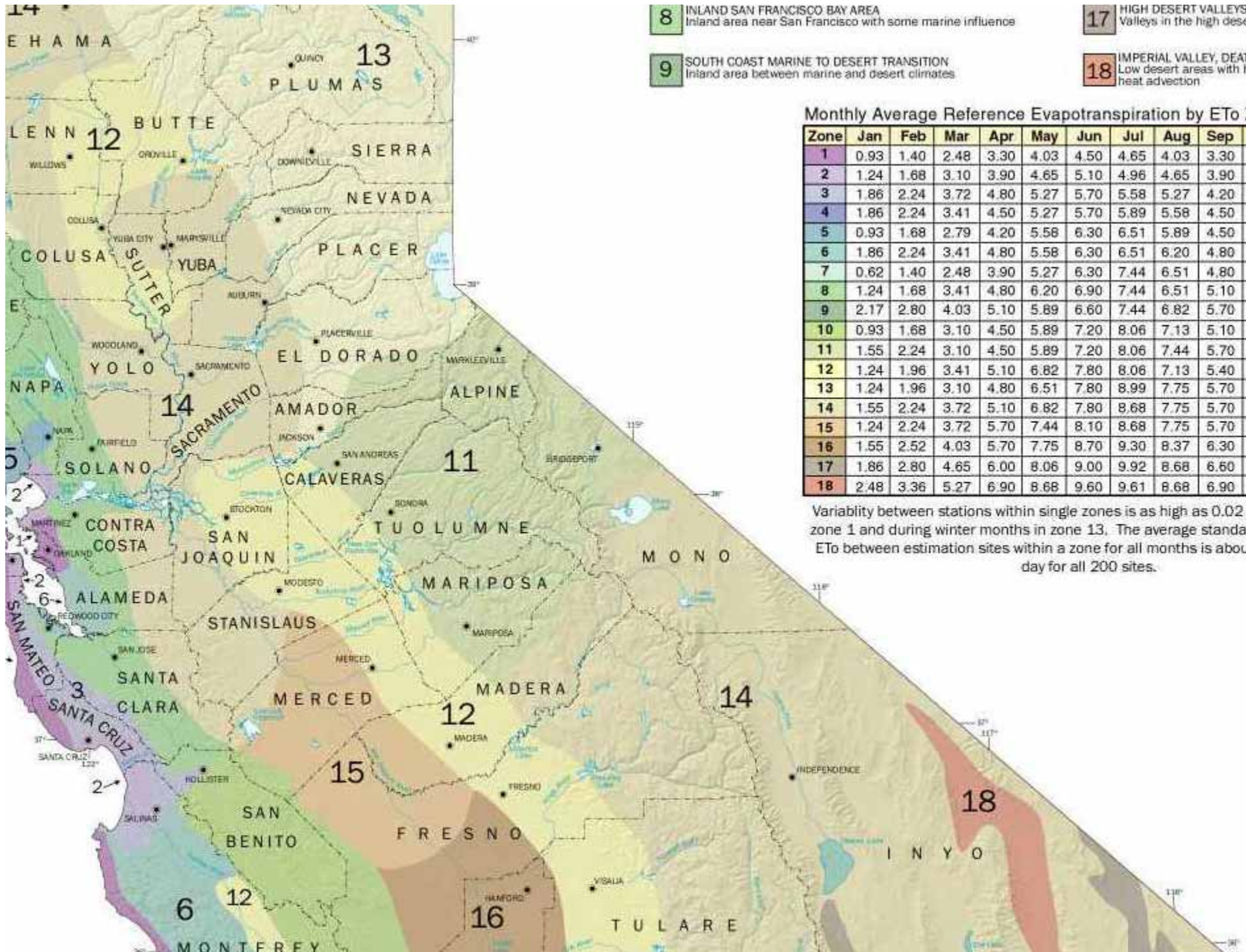
**CIMIS**

**ET<sub>o</sub>**

**Reference ET**







- 8** INLAND SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA  
Inland area near San Francisco with some marine influence
- 9** SOUTH COAST MARINE TO DESERT TRANSITION  
Inland area between marine and desert climates

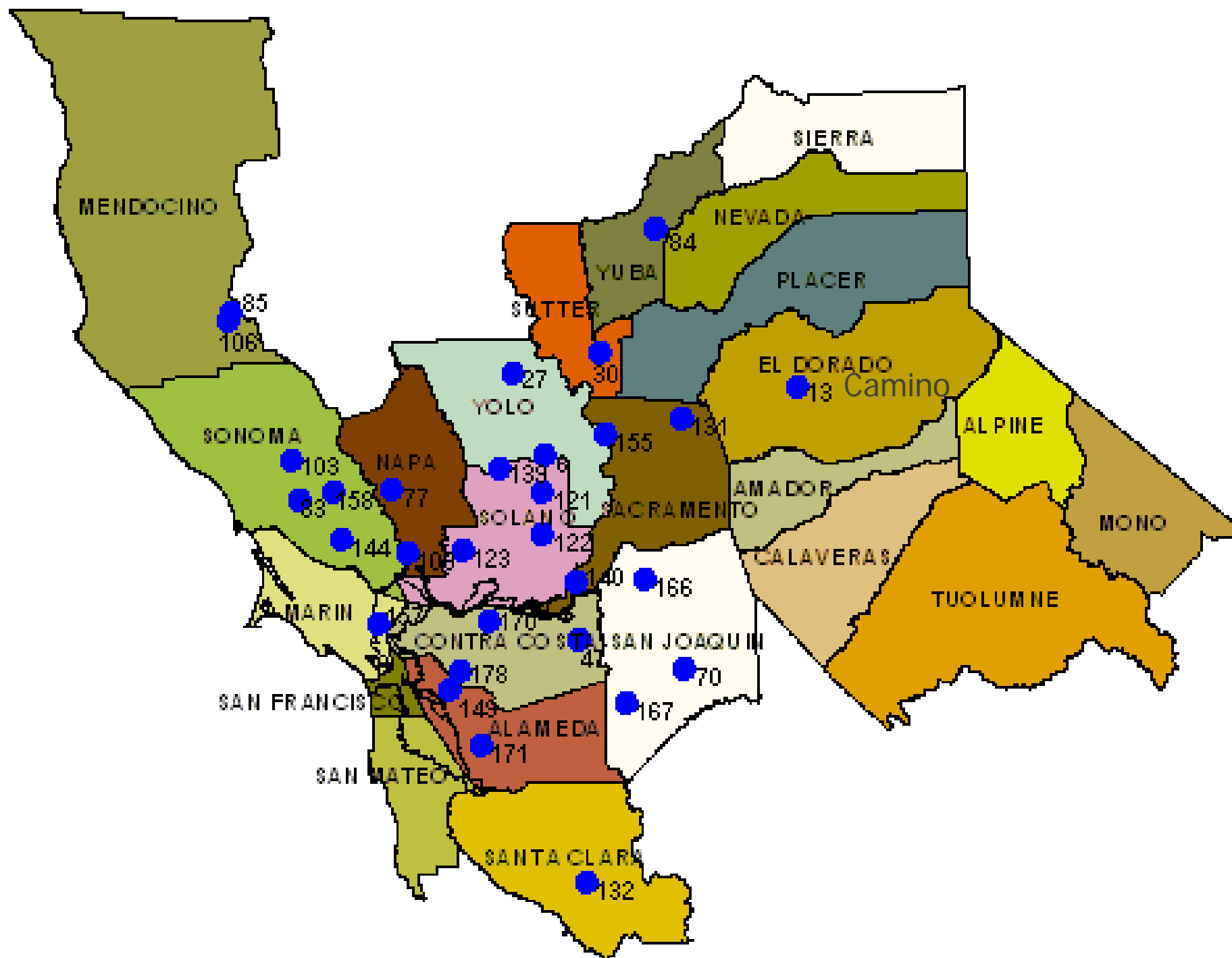
- 17** HIGH DESERT VALLEYS  
Valleys in the high desert n
- 18** IMPERIAL VALLEY, DEATH V  
Low desert areas with high heat advection

Monthly Average Reference Evapotranspiration by ETo Zor

Zone	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1	0.93	1.40	2.48	3.30	4.03	4.50	4.65	4.03	3.30	2.4
2	1.24	1.68	3.10	3.90	4.65	5.10	4.96	4.65	3.90	2.7
3	1.86	2.24	3.72	4.80	5.27	5.70	5.58	5.27	4.20	3.4
4	1.86	2.24	3.41	4.50	5.27	5.70	5.89	5.58	4.50	3.4
5	0.93	1.68	2.79	4.20	5.58	6.30	6.51	5.89	4.50	3.1
6	1.86	2.24	3.41	4.80	5.58	6.30	6.51	6.20	4.80	3.7
7	0.62	1.40	2.48	3.90	5.27	6.30	7.44	6.51	4.80	2.7
8	1.24	1.68	3.41	4.80	6.20	6.90	7.44	6.51	5.10	3.4
9	2.17	2.80	4.03	5.10	5.89	6.60	7.44	6.82	5.70	4.0
10	0.93	1.68	3.10	4.50	5.89	7.20	8.06	7.13	5.10	3.1
11	1.55	2.24	3.10	4.50	5.89	7.20	8.06	7.44	5.70	3.7
12	1.24	1.96	3.41	5.10	6.82	7.80	8.06	7.13	5.40	3.7
13	1.24	1.96	3.10	4.80	6.51	7.80	8.99	7.75	5.70	3.7
14	1.55	2.24	3.72	5.10	6.82	7.80	8.68	7.75	5.70	4.0
15	1.24	2.24	3.72	5.70	7.44	8.10	8.68	7.75	5.70	4.0
16	1.55	2.52	4.03	5.70	7.75	8.70	9.30	8.37	6.30	4.3
17	1.86	2.80	4.65	6.00	8.06	9.00	9.92	8.68	6.60	4.3
18	2.48	3.36	5.27	6.90	8.68	9.60	9.61	8.68	6.90	4.9

Variability between stations within single zones is as high as 0.02 incl zone 1 and during winter months in zone 13. The average standard c ETo between estimation sites within a zone for all months is about 0. day for all 200 sites.





## CIMIS Weather Station Data

windsor	sta103	Bi Weekly				
Station	Date	J Date	ETo	Ppt	ETo	Ppt
13	7/16/2001	196	0.22	0		
13	7/17/2001	197	0.21	0		
13	7/18/2001	198	0.24	0		
13	7/19/2001	199	0.2	0		
13	7/20/2001	200	0.21	0		
13	7/21/2001	201	0.21	0		
13	7/22/2001	202	0.25	0		
13	7/23/2001	203	0.21	0		
13	7/24/2001	204	0.2	0		
13	7/25/2001	205	0.19	0		
13	7/26/2001	206	0.17	0		
13	7/27/2001	207	0.2	0		
13	7/28/2001	208	0.21	0		
13	7/29/2001	209	0.22	0		
13	7/30/2001	210	0.21	0		
13	7/31/2001	211	0.2	0	3.35	0



Land surface  
shaded midday

$$LSS\% = 0.30$$

$$K_c = 0.30 \times 1.7 = 0.51$$



# Windsor Station 103

2001

<b>Date Period</b>	<b>Eto Inches/Period</b>	<b>Crop Coefficient Kc</b>	<b>Potential Water Use (in)</b>	<b>Through Harvest (in)</b>
June 1 - 15				
June 15 - 30				
July 1 - 15				
July 16 - 31	3.35	0.51	1.71	1.71
Aug 1 - 15	3.03	0.51	1.55	1.55
Aug 16 - 31	3.29	0.51	1.68	1.68
Sept 1 - 15	2.64	0.51	1.35	1.35
Sept 16 - 30	2.03	0.51	1.04	1.04
Oct. 1 - 15	2.04	0.51	1.04	
Oct. 16 - 31	1.29	0.51	0.66	
<b>Total</b>			9.01	7.31

Threshold of July 16th and Harvest October 1st. Shaded Area = 30%

Windsor Station 103  
2001

<b>Date Period</b>	<b>Potential Water Use (in)</b>	<b>RDI Coefficient</b>	<b>Soil (in)</b>	<b>Effective (in)</b>	<b>Net (in)</b>
July 16 - 31	1.71	0.6	0.5	0	0.73
Aug 1 - 15	1.55	0.6	0.5	0	0.63
Aug 16 - 31	1.68	0.6	0.5	0	0.71
Sept 1 - 15	1.35	0.6	0.5	0	0.51
Sept 16 - 30	1.04	0.6	0.5	0	0.32
Oct. 1 - 15	1.04	1		0	1.04
Oct. 16 - 31	0.66	1		1.24	-0.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.01</b>		<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>3.93</b>





# **Irrigation of Quality Winegrapes Using**

## **Micro-Irrigation Techniques**



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**Larry Schwankl, Irrigation Specialist**

**Paul Verdegaal, Viticulture Farm Advisor**

**Rhonda Smith, Viticulture Farm Advisor**

**University of California Cooperative Extension**

**Department of Land, Air and Water Resources**

**University of California Davis**

**Supported in part by: Lodi-Woodbridge Wine Commission**

**DRAFT**

# Irrigation of Quality Winegrapes Using Micro-Irrigation Techniques

<http://lawr.ucdavis.edu/faculty/prichard/>

go to :alternative professional page

# ucmanagedrought.ucdavis.edu



## UC Drought Management

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



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Contact Us

Agriculture



## Introduction

When there is insufficient irrigation water to meet the water demands of a crop, the available irrigation water must be applied in the most efficient manner possible.

There are available strategies for maximizing irrigation water efficiency.

Contact us:  
Lawrence Schwankl or Terry Prichard

## Agriculture

**Crop Irrigation Strategies**

**Irrigation Scheduling**

Temporary Irrigation Systems  
(coming soon)



## Urban

We are currently conducting research in this area and will present our research shortly.





# Irrigation Application

## Gallons/vine

= inches water x vine spacing x  
0.623

50 gal/vine = 1.0 in x 7x11 x 0.623