

MELON CROP DATA SHEET

Melon Water Management
 PLANT DATE: April - July

SOIL: Coarse and Fine Textured
 HARVEST: June-September

EFFECTIVE PRECIPITATION: The portion of rain that satisfies a part of water use is normally insignificant.

IRRIGATION: Preirrigation: Preirrigating 80" beds with sprinklers or 40" furrows and then reforming the furrows into 80" beds will insure that the entire bed has been uniformly wetted.

ROOT ZONE: The effective root zone can extend to a depth of five feet in fine textured soils and to a depth of six feet in coarser textured soils.

Seasonal: Three seasonal irrigations on fine textured soils that replace 2" of water in the crop root zone each will usually supply the crop with the 6" of water that is not placed in the root zone during preirrigation.

ALLOWABLE DEPLETION: A practical allowable depletion is 50 percent in fine soils and 50-60 percent in coarser textured soils. The root zone of melons planted on the 80" beds that are normally used cannot be completely refilled by a furrow irrigation. This condition must be considered when probing the soil to determine the moisture status after the first irrigation.

In coarser textured soils, frequent irrigations will be required because coarser textured soils have a low moisture-holding capacity. five seasonal irrigations, each replacing an average of 1.5" of water used by the crop, may be required because furrow irrigations cannot refill the entire root zone of melons grown on 80" beds.

WATER BUDGETING:

Average Seasonal ET (N/C/S) 0.9/0.9/0.8'
 Average Effective Precipitation 0.0'
 Average Salinity Control 0.1'

Water Use-in.*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Northern					1.2	3.2	5.6	0.4					10.4
Central					1.3	3.6	5.5	0.2					10.6
Southern					1.2	3.3	4.2						9.2
Deliveries-%		30			20	40	10						100

* Note: Assumes May 1 plant date.