

Irrigation Scheduling

v. Weather and Climate forecasting (M05-1001)

Weather and climate forecasting is a valuable tool for irrigation management. Irrigations are less effective if followed by large rainfall events; waiting for rain can lead to loss of production due to water stress.

There is a plentiful supply of information concerning weather and climate available to growers in the form of both long and short-term forecasts. Some sources of this information are listed below. This is by no means an exhaustive list but it will provide a starting point for further investigations.

Weather Internet Sites:

These will provide current or short-term weather conditions. Readings include barometric pressure, wind speed, rainfall, temperature, humidity and cloud cover.

- The Australian Bureau of Meteorology
www.bom.gov.au
- The James Cook University Metsat GCM
<http://marlin.jcu.edu.au/JCUMetsat/web/metsat.htm>
- Climate outlooks
<http://grads.iges.org/pix/clim/html>

Climate Internet Sites:

These sites provide long term or prevailing weather conditions. Their information is based on large scale atmospheric and ocean systems rather than smaller, short lived local systems.

- The Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
www.dnr.qld.gov.au/longpdk
- CSIRO Climate
<http://coastalsystems.tag.csiro.au/>
- The Australian Bureau of Meteorology
www.bom.gov.au/climate/
- The Queensland Department of Primary Industries
www.dpi.qld.gov.au/climate/
- El Nino/ La Nina/ SOI
www.dar.csiro.au/nino

Weather Services Via Fax:

Products from the Bureau of Meteorology fax service includes weather maps, storm information, flood warnings, 3-month climate outlooks and SOI forecasts. The weather directory lists services for particular farming regions and industries including crops and grains, cattle and cane and Tropical Cane Fields. To get the Queensland directory, call 1800 061 434.

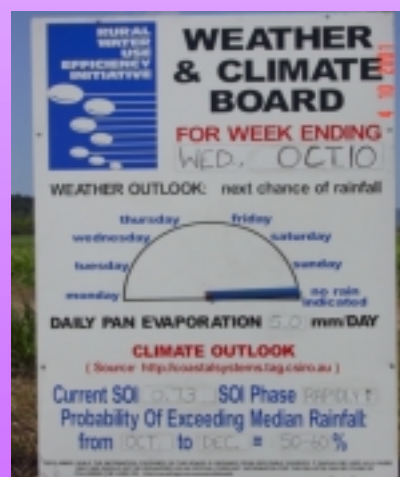
Forecasts Via The Telephone:

The Department of Primary Industry's SOI Hotline is a recorded telephone message containing the general climate forecasts for the state including information on the SOI, Sea Surface Temperatures, rainfall forecasts and the 40-day wave. Phone 07 - 4688 1623.

Forecasts from Local Industry Personnel:

Local Extension Officers can be a good source of information regarding local weather and climate outlooks. They can also provide details of where to find the information you are after.

Weather and Climate Signs:



Many areas now have roadside signs that display projected weather and climate information. These are updated regularly and are one of the most easily accessible sources of information. Web site addresses are also listed on the boards.

(All weather and climate sites from www.proserpine.com/bses)

For more information, please ring your local Rural Water Use Efficiency Officer.

The Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative is a joint venture between BSES, CANEGROWERS and the Queensland Government through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

