

8. Bewässerungs- und Beregnungstechnik Irrigation and Sprinkling

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Der Klimawandel war im vergangenen Jahr ein zentrales Thema. Der G-8-Gipfel im Juni 2007 wurde zum Klima-Krisengipfel. Jede Zeitung, jedes Magazin warnte vor starken Klimaveränderungen. In der Tat, „2006 war wieder ein gutes Beregnungsjahr“, so würde es die Beregnungsindustrie bezeichnen, und die Beregnungslandwirte vergessen solche Jahre nicht, weil der Arbeitseinsatz und die Zusatzkosten für die Beregnung die Betriebe stark belasten. 2007 herrschte eine Frühjahrstrockenheit, die in den Medien für weitere Schlagzeilen sorgte. Die Berliner Morgenpost titelte am 4. Mai 2007 „Deutschland trocknet aus“. Insgesamt ist eine Ausdehnung der Beregnungsflächen mit mehr Beregnungstechnik zu verzeichnen. Eine praktische Konsequenz des höheren Beregnungsbedarfes ist darin zu beobachten, dass viele Landwirte vom Zehn-Tage-Rhythmus zum Wochenrhythmus des Beregnungseinsatzes umgestellt haben. Man ist mit der Beregnung nicht mehr „hinterhergekommen“, sagt ein Praktiker.

Informationen aus der Industrie

Wie die John Deere & Company bekannt gab, hat das Unternehmen 2008 die Plastro Irrigation Systems, Ltd. mit Sitz in Israel übernommen und damit sein Engagement auf dem Gebiet der Bewässerungstechnik verstärkt. Zuvor hat Deere & Company T-Systems International, Inc., und Roberts Irrigation, beides Hersteller von Tropfbewässerungsmaterial, übernommen. T-Tape- und Plastro-Produkte wurden seit Jahrzehnten in Deutschland von mehreren Händlern verkauft. Die neue Firmensparte „John Deere Water Technologies“ hat ihren Sitz in San Marcos, Kalifornien. Nach-dieser Fusion soll John Deere heute weltweit die Nummer drei unter den Anbietern von Bewässerungstechnik sein: Die Geschäftsfelderweiterung hat sicherlich mehrere Gründe. John Deere nennt unter anderem: „Präzisionsbewässerung wird dazu beitragen, die Landwirtschaft künftig noch pro-

In the past year, climate change was a central topic. The G-8 summit in June 2007 became a climate crisis summit. Every newspaper and every magazine warned of serious climate change. The irrigation industry would in fact state that “2006 was another good irrigation year”. Farmers who irrigate, however, do not forget such years because work requirements and additional expenses for irrigation put a great burden on farms. The spring of 2007 was very dry, which made additional headlines in the media like “Germany is drying up” in the Berliner Morgenpost from 4th May 2007. Overall, an increase in the size of irrigated areas with more irrigation equipment is recorded. As a practical consequence observed as a result of the greater irrigation requirements, many farmers switched from a 10-day rhythm to a weekly irrigation interval. A farmer said that it was impossible to “keep up” in irrigation.

Information from Industry

John Deere & Company announced that the enterprise took over Plastro Irrigation Systems Ltd., a company headquartered in Israel, in 2008, which strengthened its commitment in the irrigation equipment sector. Before, Deere & Company had taken over T-Systems International, Inc. as well as Roberts Irrigation, which both manufacture drip irrigation material. In Germany, T-Tape and Plastro products have been sold for decades by several dealers. The new company division “John Deere Water Technologies” has its headquarters in San Marcos, California. After this merger, John Deere is considered number three among the suppliers of irrigation equipment today. This extension of the business area is certainly due to several reasons. Some of them are mentioned by John Deere: “Precision irrigation is going to make a contribution towards even greater agricultural productivity in the future. The growth of the world population, the growing demand for higher-quality food, and the

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duktiver zu machen. Das Wachstum der Weltbevölkerung, eine steigende Nachfrage nach höherwertigen Nahrungsmitteln und das zunehmende Interesse an erneuerbaren Energien erfordern künftig einen weitaus gezielteren Umgang mit Frischwasserreserven und Ackerland.“ [1]

Unter der Dachmarke „German Water Partnership (GWP)“ [2] werden sich die bislang getrennt agierenden Unternehmen und Verbände der deutschen Wasserwirtschaft künftig gemeinsam im internationalen Wettbewerb präsentieren. Darauf einigten sich rund 80 Spitzenvertreter aus der Wirtschaft, von Verbänden, von universitären und außeruniversitären Forschungseinrichtungen sowie Vertreter verschiedener Ministerien. Das Aktivitätsfeld liegt in der Gründungsphase im Raum Berlin/Brandenburg. Langfristig soll die deutsche Wasserwirtschaft unter einer gemeinsamen Dachmarke auftreten und GWP soll als zentrale Kontaktadresse für internationale Auftraggeber dienen.

Netafim, ein großes Unternehmen auf dem Gebiet der Tropfbewässerung mit Hauptsitz in Israel, ist dem CEO Water Mandate Organisation beigetreten.

Das CEO Water Mandate ist eine gemeinsame Initiative des Generalsekretärs der Vereinten Nationen, Ban Ki-moon, der Regierung Schwedens sowie einer Gruppe von Organisationen, die sich dazu verpflichtet haben oder darauf spezialisiert sind, das Problem der Wasserknappheit anzugehen und die Wasserqualität zu verbessern. Die Organisation wurde im Juli 2007 als eine teils private, teils staatlich geförderte Initiative mit der Absicht gegründet, internationale Strategien und Lösungsansätze zu finden, um die immer kritischer werdende Trinkwassersituation zu verbessern. Ziel des CEO Water Mandate ist es, Unternehmen und Organisationen auf der ganzen Welt mit einzubeziehen, die sich dazu bereit erklären, gemeinsam mit anderen wichtigen internationalen Organen an diesem Vorhaben zu arbeiten. Die Mitglieder der Organisation haben sich dazu verpflichtet, wo immer möglich Lösungsansätze untereinander auszutauschen und sie mit regionalen und globalen Plänen, die bereits in den unterschiedlichen Ländern im Einsatz sind, in Einklang zu bringen [3; 4].

Bewässerungssteuerung

Tensiometer

Tensiometer sind seit Jahrzehnten für die Einsatzsteuerung der Bewässerung bekannt und teilweise im Einsatz. Tensiometer messen die Saugspannung. Dabei transportiert die Tonzelle des

increasing interest in renewable energies will require a far more specific use of fresh water reserves and farmland.“ [1]

Under the umbrella brand name “German Water Partnership (GWP)“ [2], the currently still separate companies and associations of the water and irrigation sector in Germany are going to present themselves together in international competition. This is the result of an agreement found by approximately 80 top representatives of the economy, associations, research institutions at the universities and outside the universities, as well as the representatives of different ministries. During the foundation phase, its field of activity will be in the Berlin/Brandenburg area. In the long run, the water and irrigation sector in Germany is going to present itself under a common umbrella brand name, and GWP is intended to serve as a central contact address for international customers.

Netafim, a large enterprise in the field of drip irrigation headquartered in Israel became a member of the CEO Water Mandate Organisation.

The CEO Water Mandate is a common initiative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, the Swedish government, and a group of organizations which have obliged themselves to address the problem of water scarcity and to improve water quality or which are specialized in this field. This organization was founded in July 2007 as a partly private and partly state-funded initiative with the intention of finding international strategies and approaches in order to improve the drinking water situation, which is becoming more and more critical. It is the goal of the CEO Water Mandate to integrate companies and organizations from all over the world which declare their willingness to work on this project together with other important international organs. The members of the organization obliged themselves to exchange potential solutions wherever possible and to harmonize them with regional and global plans which have already been realized in different countries [3; 4].

Irrigation Control

Tensiometers

Tensiometers have been known and in some cases also used for decades in order to control irrigation. Tensiometers measure soil moisture tension. For this purpose, the porous cell of the tensiometer transports water from the inside to the outside in a dry environment. This generates a

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Tensiometers in trockener Umgebung Wasser von innen nach außen, so dass im geschlossenen Rohr ein Unterdruck entsteht, der mit einem Vakuummeter gemessen wird. Das Problem war bisher der geringe Wasservorrat. Die Firma Tensio-Technik hat die Standardausführung von 18 mm Rohrdurchmesser um zwei Varianten erweitert. Es gibt jetzt Tensiometer wie bisher in fünf Längen von 25 bis 65 cm, aber mit 25 oder 30 mm Außendurchmesser. Damit ist der Wasservorrat wesentlich größer. Das Nachfüllen im Feld wird reduziert.

Wärmekapazität

Mit der Wärmekapazität (Temperaturmessung) setzt die Firma Tensio Technik ein ganz anderes Messprinzip zur Bestimmung der Bodenfeuchte ein [5]. In einem Gleichgewichtskörper mit Tensiometerform, Tensiemark, wird in einem definierten Substrat der sich ändernde Wassergehalt – ständiger Austausch mit dem zu messenden Boden – und die entsprechende Wärmekapazität durch ein gepulstes Aufheizen registriert und direkt dem entsprechenden Saugspannungswert (pF-Wert) zugeordnet. Dadurch kann indirekt das Matrixpotenzial oder die Saugspannung mit guter Genauigkeit durch vorherige Kalibrierung gemessen werden. Hervorzuheben sind neben der Wartungsfreiheit die Genauigkeit und der große Messbereich im Vergleich zu den bekannten Tensiometern mit Wasserfüllung.

Scholanderbombe

Die Messungen zum Beregnungseinsatz wurden bisher im Boden durchgeführt und der Wassergehalt oder die Wasserspannung des Bodens bestimmt. Neu ist ein Messgerät, das den Wasserstatus der Pflanze (Gesamtwasserpotenzial der Pflanze) misst (Bild 1). In Geisenheim wurde die Scholanderbombe so weiterentwickelt, dass sie für den Praxiseinsatz geeignet ist. Die Messkammer für Blätter oder Blattstängel ist 150 mm hoch und hat einen Durchmesser von 65 mm. Im Normalbetrieb können bis zu 48 Messungen durchgeführt werden. Danach muss der Druckbehälter wieder aufgefüllt werden. Scholander und Mitarbeiter griffen Mitte der sechziger Jahre eine Konstruktion von Dixon (1914) auf und verbesserten dessen Apparatur zur Messung des „Saftdruckes“ von Pflanzen. Das heutige Gerät wurde von Dr. Gruber, Geisenheim, entwickelt und wird von der Firma MMM techsupport [6] vertrieben. Die Wei-

vacuum in the closed pipe, which is measured using a vacuum meter. In the past, small water tank capacity was a problem. The company Tensio Technik has extended the standard version, which has a pipe diameter of 18 mm, to include two variants. Now, tensiometers are available in five lengths (25 to 65 cm) like in the past, but with an outer diameter of 25 or 30 mm. Thus, water tank capacity is significantly larger, and refilling in the field is reduced.

Heat Capacity

Heat capacity (temperature measurement) is an entirely different measuring principle for the determination of soil moisture used by the company Tensio Technik [5]. In an equilibrium body having the form of a tensiometer (Tensiemark), the water content, which changes constantly in exchange with the soil to be measured, and corresponding

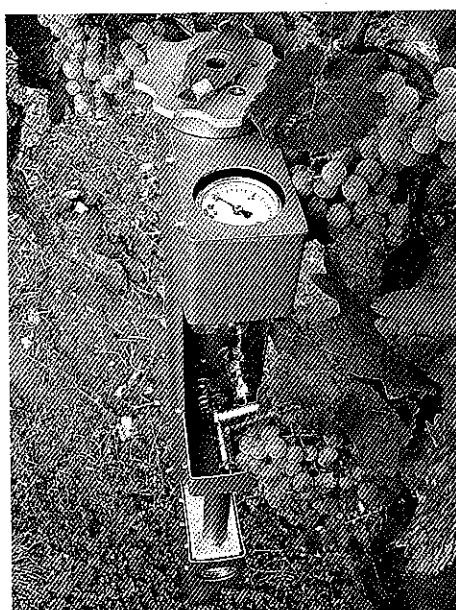


Bild 1: Scholander-Apparatur zur Messung des Wasserbedarfes der Pflanze, hier im Weinbau, aber auch in landwirtschaftlichen Kulturen ist dieses Verfahren einsetzbar.

Figure 1: Scholander Apparatus for the measurement of the plant water requirements (here in a vineyard). This device can also be used for agricultural crops.

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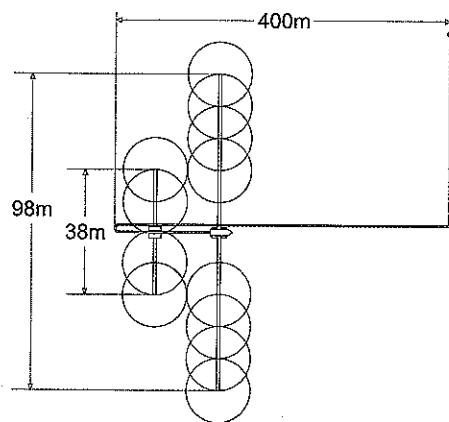


Bild 2: Prinzipskizze des Raintrac-Beregnungswagens.

Figure 2: Principle schema of irrigation device "Raintrac".

terentwicklung der Scholander-Apparatur und die verbesserte einfache Handhabung führten zur DLG-Prämierung.

Klimatische Wasserbilanz

Die größte Schwierigkeit bei der Erstellung der Klimatischen Wasserbilanz stellt heutzutage die genaue Bestimmung des Wachstumsstadiums (kc -Wert) der Kultur dar. Satellitengestützte Bestimmungsverfahren hierzu werden immer mehr verfügbar. Hierbei wird das Reflektionsverhalten von Grünmasse im nahen Infrarotbereich zur Bestimmung der Blattflächenzahl verwendet, die wiederum eng mit dem kc -Wert in Berechnung der aktuellen Evapotranspiration nach FAO 56 verbunden ist. Somit lässt sich anhand dieser Satellitenbilder unter Einbeziehung lokaler Wetterdaten automatisch eine schlagspezifische Wasserbilanz erstellen. Der Vorteil liegt in der fortlaufenden Angleichung des kc -Wertes. Dies stellt eine erhebliche Vereinfachung des bisherigen Verfahrens dar, bei dem der Landwirt den Übergang von einer kc -Stufe zur nächsten selbst bestimmen und dann entsprechende Korrekturen in der selbsterstellten Wasserbilanz vornehmen musste [7].

Bewässerungstechnik

Aus Österreich kommt eine Weiterentwicklung, die zwischen Linearberegnungsmaschine und Düsenwagen mit mobiler Beregnungsmaschine

heat capacity are determined in a defined substrate by means of pulsed heating and directly correlated with the corresponding soil moisture tension (pF-value). Thanks to previous calibration, this allows the matrix potential or soil moisture tension to be measured indirectly with high precision. As compared with the known, water-filled tensiometers, maintenance-free operation, precision, and the wide measurement range are prominent features of this new system.

Scholander Bomb

So far, measurements for irrigation purposes have been carried out in the soil by determining the soil water content and soil water tension. A new measuring instrument now allows the water status of the plant (total water potential) to be established (figure 1). In Geisenheim, the so-called "Scholander bomb" was upgraded such that it is suitable for practical use. The measuring chamber for leaves or leaf stems is 150 mm tall and has a diameter of 65 mm. In normal operation, up to 48 measurements can be taken. Afterwards, the pressure reservoir must be refilled. In the middle of the sixties, Scholander et al. took over a design from Dixon (1914) and improved his instrument for the measurement of the "sap pressure" of plants. The current instrument was developed by Dr. Gruber (Geisenheim) and is sold by the company MMM [6]. The DLG awarded a prize for the upgraded Scholander instrument and its improved, simple operation.

Climatic Water Balance

Today, the greatest difficulty in the establishment of the climatic water balance is the precise determination of the growth stage (kc -value) of the crop. More and more satellite-based procedures are becoming available for these measurements. For this purpose, the reflection behaviour of green mass in the near infrared range is used, which is closely connected to the kc -value in the calculation of current evapotranspiration according to FAO 56. Thus, these satellite images enable a field-specific water balance to be established automatically taking local weather data into consideration. The advantage of this technique lies in the permanent adjustment of the kc -value. This is a significant simplification of the former procedure, which required the farmer to determine the transition from one kc -stage to the next and to carry out the nec-

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now available for practical use. The measuring chamber
consists of two stems 150 mm tall and has a
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sure must be refilled. In the middle of the
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essary corrections in the water balance which he
had established himself [7].

Irrigation Equipment

An upgraded machine from Austria is situated in
the middle between the groups of linear move
machines and nozzle booms with mobile irrigation
machines. The Raintrac prototype consists of two
booms mounted to a four-wheel chassis. The
booms are controlled hydraulically and keep a
constant distance from the ground. Irrigators are
installed every three metres. During irrigation, the
driving area is not irrigated immediately. This is done by special irrigators for the central, non-irri-
gated area, which are installed on a trailer (figure
2). In contrast to other irrigators, this machine al-
ways travels on dry soil.

The self-propelled machine is equipped with a
combustion engine, which winds up a previously
unrolled and anchored wire cable and thus gener-
ates forward movement. Water is supplied by a
drag hose (figure 3).

The lateral booms have a width of 48 m each.
Total design width including vehicle width is 98 m.
If the irrigator cast is added, a strip of 130 m can
be irrigated. For comparison: Known nozzle booms
have a design width of 50 m. In some cases, width
is extended to 60 m. Other details are listed below
in keywords:

Vehicle height: 3.90 m, effective working width:
101 m, driving speed: up to 150 m/h, irrigation
height: up to 40 mm, vehicle weight: 4,000 kg,
track: 1.80 m, diesel consumption: 1 l/h, set-up
time: 2 h with two persons, take-down time: 1 h
with two persons, length of the drag hose: maxi-
mum 400 m at a diameter of 90 mm or 200 m at a
diameter of 125 mm, capital requirements: €
120,000 to 150,000 depending on the equipment.

This new development is remarkable, but the
high capital and work time requirements will re-
strict its application to a few specialized farms.

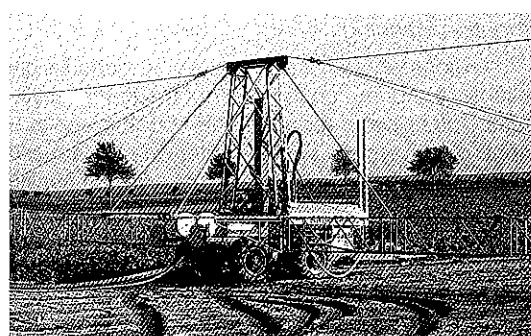


Bild 3: Raintrac-Beregnungswagen im Einsatz.
Figure 3: Raintrac spraying device in use.

Drip Irrigation

Sufficient horizontal water distribution by drip ir-
rigation systems on light soils is always a chal-
lenge especially if drip irrigation is used for "water-
ing in" so that other irrigation systems can be
completely dispensed with. It is often impossible
to find an economically sound compromise to
solve this problem. Irrigation & Water Technologies
Pty Ltd (IWT) in Rouse Hill, NSW, Australia, is now

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Tropfbewässerung

Die ausreichende horizontale Wasserverteilung von Tropfbewässerungsanlagen auf leichten Böden ist immer eine Herausforderung. Besonders wenn die Tropfbewässerung für das „Angießen“ verwendet werden soll, um auf andere Beregnungssysteme gänzlich verzichten zu können. Es ist oft nicht möglich, hierfür einen ökonomischen Kompromiss zu finden. Irrigation & Water Technologies Pty Ltd (IWT) in Rouse Hill, NSW, Australien, hat einen seit 1995 patentierten Ansatz jetzt verstärkt auf den Markt gebracht.

KISSS (Kapillary Irrigation Sub-Surface System) verwendet ein normales Tropfrohr, das mit einem Geotextilgewebe vernäht ist. Hierdurch wird das Wasser nicht an der Tropfstelle punktförmig appliziert, sondern verteilt sich nahezu gleichmäßig zwischen den Tropfstellen.

Um diesen Effekt auch in der Horizontalen noch weiter auszudehnen, gibt es eine zweite Variante, bei der der Tropfschlauch auf eine 10 cm breite Polyethylenfolie geklebt und mit dem Textilgewebe überdeckt wird. Der Hersteller proklamiert bis zu 30 % Wassereinsparung gegenüber herkömmlicher Unterflur-Tropfbewässerung und bis 50 % gegenüber herkömmlicher oberirdisch verlegter Tropfbewässerung.

Da das Textilgewebe bisher von Hand vernäht werden muss, sind die Produktionskosten erheblich. Auch die Verlegung besonders mit der breiten Folie ist erheblich aufwändiger als das Verlegen normaler Tropfschläuche.

Für den Landschaftsbau und kleinflächigen Intensivanbau stellt dieses System sicher eine attraktive Alternative dar; inwieweit der Einsatz in der großflächigen Landwirtschaft wirtschaftlich sein wird, bleibt abzuwarten [8].

Normung und Planung

Normung

Im Berichtszeitraum wurden im nationalen Normenbereich drei Normen wesentlich überarbeitet und sind veröffentlicht:

- DIN 19655 Bewässerung – Aufgaben, Grundlagen, Planung und Verfahren
- DIN 4047-6 Landwirtschaftlicher Wasserbau – Begriffe – Teil 6: Bewässerung
- DIN 19684-10 Bodenbeschaffenheit – Chemische Laboruntersuchungen – Teil 10: Untersuchungen und Beurteilung des Wassers bei Bewässerungsmaßnahmen

intensively marketing a solution which has been patented since 1995. KISSS (Capillary Irrigation Sub-Surface System) uses a normal drip pipe coated with geotextile tissue. This system does not apply water exclusively at drip points. Instead, the water is distributed virtually evenly between the drip points. In order to enhance this effect also at the horizontal level, a second variant is available. In this variant, the drip hose is glued onto 10 cm wide polyethylene film and covered by the textile tissue. The manufacturer claims water savings of up to 30 % as compared with conventional subsurface drip irrigation and up to 50 % as compared with conventional drip irrigation systems installed on the surface. Since the textile tissue must still be sewn by hand, production costs are significant. The installation of the wide film in particular is considerably more time-consuming than the installation of normal drip hoses. For landscaping and intensive small-area cultivation, this system is certainly an attractive alternative. Whether or not its use in large-area agriculture will be profitable remains to be seen [8].

Standardization and Planning

Standardization

In the period under consideration, three national standards were significantly revised and published:

- DIN 19655 Irrigation – Problems, fundamental principles, planning and methods
- DIN 4047-6 Water engineering of agricultural lands – terms – part 6: Irrigation
- DIN 19684-10 Methods of soil investigations – chemical laboratory tests – part 10: Testing and evaluation of water for irrigation.

Irrigation Planning

In regions where water supply for irrigation is unreliable, the prime concern is not the timely coverage of plant water requirements, but the achievement of maximum yields under the given and insecure future conditions. Cultivation planning (planting time and planting density) as well as irrigation management (distribution of available water over the period of cultivation) must be extended to include the components of crop development when water supply is limited. The insecurity of future water availability (likelihood that additional water becomes available during the cultivation time) must be taken into consideration. "Wa-

Marketing a solution which has been developed since 1995. KISSS (Capillary Irrigation System) uses a normal drip pipe with a textile tissue. This system does not irrigate exclusively at drip points. Instead, water is distributed virtually evenly between the drips. In order to enhance this effect also at a local level, a second variant is available. In this variant, the drip hose is glued onto 10 µm polyethylene film and covered by the textile tissue. The manufacturer claims water savings of up to 50 % compared with conventional sub-surface irrigation and up to 50 % as compared with conventional drip irrigation systems installed on the market. Since the textile tissue must still be used, production costs are significant. The use of the wide film in particular is considerably more time-consuming than the installation of standard drip hoses. For landscaping and intensive area cultivation, this system is a good alternative. Whether or not intensive area agriculture will be profitable remains to be seen [8].

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Irrigation – Problems, fundamental planning and methods

Water engineering of agricultural areas – part 6: Irrigation

Methods of soil investigations – Laboratory tests – part 10: Testing and evaluation of water for irrigation.

Water management

The water supply for irrigation is under consideration. The main concern is not the timely coverage of water requirements, but the achievement of maximum yields under the given and changing environmental conditions. Cultivation planning (choice of crop and planting density) as well as irrigation management (distribution of available water and timing of cultivation) must be extended to take into account the components of crop development which are currently limited. The insecurity of future water availability (likelihood that additional water will be available during the cultivation period) must be taken into consideration. "Wa-

Beregnungsplanung

In regions with unreliable availability of water for irrigation, the calculation of irrigation must not only cover the current water requirement, but also the highest possible yield under given and uncertain future conditions to be achieved. The cultivation planning (planting time and plant density) and irrigation management (distribution of available water over the cultivation period) must be adapted to the limited water supply. The uncertainty of future water availability (probability that additional water will be available during the cultivation period) must be taken into account. "Watersense" is a model developed for sugar cane cultivation on the east coast of Australia which enables farmers to determine possible yields when the available quantity of water is limited. In addition, the required distribution of irrigation can be established under the given conditions (kind of soil, plant density, planting time, current rain development) and on the basis of historical climate data. In principle, this leads to an optimal distribution of irrigation and, hence, to the highest possible yield.

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Due to accelerating climate change, which causes more and more unreliable weather conditions, the integration of irrigation management into the entire cultivation planning is certainly going to gain in importance in the future. However, this requires more intensive cooperation between agronomists and irrigation specialists, whose fields are traditionally far more clearly separated abroad than in Germany [9; 10].

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