# **USER GUIDE**

# Wisconsin Irrigation Scheduling Program



WISP 2012 Version 2.0.0 The Wisconsin Irrigation Scheduling Program (WISP 2012) is an irrigation water management tool developed by the Departments of Biological Systems Engineering and Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. WISP 2012 is designed to help growers optimize crop water use efficiency by tracking the root zone water balance (water inputs and outputs). WISP 2012 incorporates several features from irrigation schedulers that have been used historically in Wisconsin (Curwen and Massey (1994) - UWEX Pub. No. A3600, WISDOM and the WIS Spreadsheet tool).

WISP 2012 uses the checkbook method to track soil moisture on a daily basis given a user defined managed root zone depth. Soil moisture losses through evapotranspiration (ET) (primarily via plant transpiration) and deep drainage (water passing vertically through the managed root zone) are considered along with water inputs that include daily rainfall and irrigation. WISP 2012 is a soil moisture management decision support tool and is best used in combination with other information such as soil moisture monitoring and field observations when making irrigation decisions. All inputs with the exception of daily rainfall and irrigation need only be entered once during initial set up with some possible cropping season modification. Should the field crop change new inputs will be needed. The model accommodates multiple farms, pivots (water application device), fields and crops described using a hierarchal structure:

- ✓ A farm can be any set of pivots the user chooses (e.g. common ownership, location or management).
- ✓ A pivot can have one or more fields growing different crops.
- ✓ A field is typically defined by a set of common physical and/or management characteristics (e.g., crop type, soil water holding characteristics or irrigation management) assigned to a land area. Field characteristics can change from year to year.

The first web-based release of the WISP tool, version 1.1.0, was released in 2013 and has now been replaced by version 2.0.0 released in 2016. The user interface and functionality of version 2.0.0 are essentially identical to version 1.1.0, however the upgrade to a new version of the web-based program software was necessary for web hosting security. One change made in version 2.2.0 is that the user authentication no longer uses Google.

#### USER ACCOUNTS

Your WISP 2012 data are held for your exclusive use within a secure user account. When you start WISP you are directed to a login page where you enter your email address and password. The password you enter is unique to WISP so you can reuse your old WISP password or create an entirely new one. If this is your first time using WISP, select *Sign up* to create your user account. Should you forget your password, WISP will email you a link that you can use to reset your password. That's all there is to it! Use the "Sign out" button; to log out of WISP.

#### **MODEL INPUTS**

This User Guide has been organized to take you through the scheduler setup and operation process. Initial setup includes site data such as farm ID, pivot IDs / locations, field IDs and locations and soil properties. The more dynamic daily inputs include rainfall, irrigation, percent soil moisture and canopy cover. The site data inputs will be retained on the server during the non-growing season and will be available for use during the following growing season. Data displayed on the *Field Status* screen will be cleared prior to the next growing season. Initial setup data will be saved from year to year. Each user is responsible to create and maintain their own backup data using the WISP report utility (see Report in CSV Format). The primary model input steps are numbered in subsequent Sections I through V.

#### Adding and Deleting Inputs

You can add farms, pivots and fields using the <u>Add</u> button located on the left, below the appropriate input screen and delete using the <u>Del</u> button to right of the row you want deleted. When adding a farm, pivot or field, simply enter data for the new feature into the boxes. You MUST press enter when data entry is complete for a row to save your data.

The list of fields that appear at the bottom half of the *Farm Data* screen highlights those fields where the Allowable Depletion (AD) or plant readily available water has been depleted (i.e. negative AD). Once AD has been depleted, the crop begins to experience water stress. When AD initially reaches zero or is slightly negative, water stress impact is minimal; however as AD increases (becomes a greater negative number), water stress increases. Avoidance of plant water stress is especially important during plant reproductive periods such as flowering for soybeans and tasselling for corn. Note that when editing an input box, the border around the outside of the box will be colored blue.

#### I. FARM DATA SCREEN



Parameter Comments / Explanation

Name (Farm Name) Your unique farm identifier.

Notes Descriptive notes as desired (not required).

AD < 0 If there are any fields on this a farm where the readily

available water has been depleted (AD < 0), "yes" will be indicated and the corresponding fields will be listed below the Farm screen window. When the allowable depletion drops below 0, the crop begins to experience water stress.

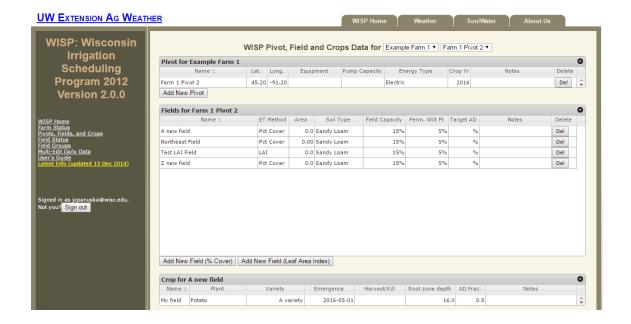
Del Removes the farm from the model. This button appears in

subsequent input screens to remove the associated item

from the model.

A list of direct links to the various sections of the model is displayed on the left panel with the user login ID displayed at the bottom of the list. Use the "Sign out" button located on the left panel to log off or simply close the program window using the box in the upper right corner of the window when you have completed your WISP session.

### II. PIVOT, FIELD AND CROPS DATA SCREEN



#### **Pivot Inputs**

The first row is the default row created by WISP and appears automatically. Edit the default row first by clicking on any cell and/or add more rows using then add button. Note that you MUST press the Enter key to save your data!

<u>Parameter</u>	Comments / Explanation			
Pivot Name	Your unique pivot identifier.			
Latitude & Longitude	Enter as degrees and decimal degrees (e.g. 43.23). The latitude and longitude data are used in conjunction with the UWEX Agricultural Weather system (AGWX) to retrieve site specific daily evapotranspiration (ET) values. The AGWX system uses a 6 mi square grid of ET values. This grid is interpolated using weather data from ground reporting stations. Latitude and longitude values should be entered to the nearest 0.1°. Note that the longitude must be a negative number as we are in the western hemisphere!			
Equipment, Pump Capacity	These inputs are only used for record keeping purposes in this version of WISP.			
Energy Type	This is also for record keeping purposes. Left click in the window to use the drop down list to edit or type in your data. Electric is the default energy type.			

Crop Year Current crop year.

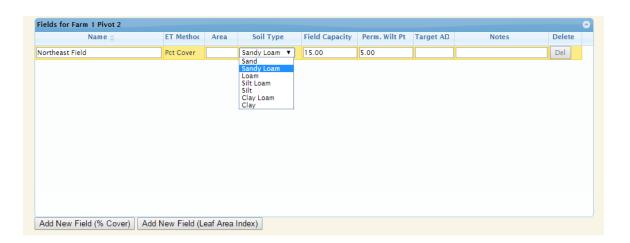
Notes Descriptive notes as desired (not required).

ET Method (% cover or LAI)

- 1) Determined based on user input percent canopy cover as calculated in UWEX A3600 Curwen and Massey, (1994), see Appendix A. There are also smart phone Apps. available (www.canopeoapp.com/) to calculate percent cover or
- 2) Determined using the Leaf Area Index (LAI) calculated via a general time-based growth curve developed for corn with a specified emergence date. The Leaf Area Index is the one-sided green leaf area per unit ground surface area.

Note that the inventory of fields and crops associated with the currently selected pivot are displayed in the corresponding *Field and Crop* screens located below the *Pivot* screen. Also note that you may select a different farm using the drop-down menu located to the right of the screen title.

#### **Field Inputs**



Again, the first row is the default row created by WISP and appears automatically as the program requires at least one row of data. Edit this row first and the additional fields can be added using the Add New Field button located at the bottom of the screen.

<u>Parameter</u> <u>Comments / Explanation</u>

Field Name Your unique field identifier.

Area Field area in acres for record keeping (not required).

Soil Type (drop down) Predominant soil type in the management area or field for

record keeping purposes. Textural class is also used to generate default the initial values for field capacity (Fc), permanent wilting point (PWP) and the initial soil moisture conditions (**assumed to be at Fc**). The Fc values are copied to the *Field Status* screen as initial conditions and

can be overwritten by user input.

Field capacity is the soil moisture level where no additional water can be added without deep drainage occurring.

Permanent wilt point is the moisture level where there is no

plant extractable water remains in the soil.

Field Capacity (Fc) and Permanent Wilt Point (PWP) data source

The preferred option over using the default Fc and PWP values from the Soil Type drop down menu is to select these data from the **USDA Web Soil Survey (WSS).** The WSS is the recommended soils data source for WISP if you don't have measured values for your field, which is most often the case. You can replace the WISP Fc and PWP default values generated by the drop down list by directly entering the WSS or measured values into the appropriate cells. The steps to use the WSS are as follows:

- The WSS URL is: <a href="http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm">http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm</a>

   After reading the <u>four basic steps</u> user guidance, start the WSS by pushing the green button.
- 2. Locate your fields using the Quick Navigation menu available in the WSS (address, state and county, map, etc.).
- 3. Select VIEW each time to retrieve the requested data.
- 4. Zoom into your location using the magnifying glass icon on the tool bar with the + symbol.

- 5. Use the Area of Interest (AOI) tool to select the specific field of interest.
- 6. Select the SOIL DATA EXPLORER tab and the soil series identifications will appear.
- 7. Select the SOIL PROPERTIES AND QUALITIES tab under that the SOIL PHYSICAL PROPERTIES sub-menu.
- 8. One at a time select WATER CONTENT, 15 BAR (PWP) and WATER CONTENT, One-Third bar (Fc).
- 9. Under Aggregation Method be sure to select WEIGHTED AVERGE, select the correct depth units and enter your managed root zone depth (inches). The first depth is the surface (depth =0), the second depth is the managed root zone depth as shown by crop type in Appendix B at the end of this document.
- 10. The WSS will provide depth weighted Fc and PWP values along with the area and % area of each within the AOI. At this point you can select the number of individual soil groups you want to use for your field. If Fc and PWP values for the groups are within 10% of each other, you may choose to average values and lump spoil groups.
- 11. Enter the percent moisture at 1/3<sup>rd</sup> bar (Fc) into the field capacity column and the value at 15 bar (PWP) into the Perm. Wilt Pt. column in WISP.

#### Field Testing for Soil Field Capacity

The drop-down soils list and/or WSS data are good initial values to use for the Fc. However, monitored soil moisture data can also be used to determine site specific Fc values. The soil moisture at field capacity is the water held in the soil matrix against gravity. This value can be observed 24 hours after a large volume of water has been applied to the soil, such as after a large rainfall event or if water were manually applied directly to the sensor location (ex. bucket). When the water holding capacity for the surface soil layer is exceeded, the volumetric moisture content will remain constant at Fc as flow redistributes and moves deeper into the soil profile. If a manual test is conducted, the test area should be free of vegetation and covered using tarp after wetting to prevent evaporation prior to reading the soil moisture value. Be sure get representative values at your managed root zone depth.

Target AD

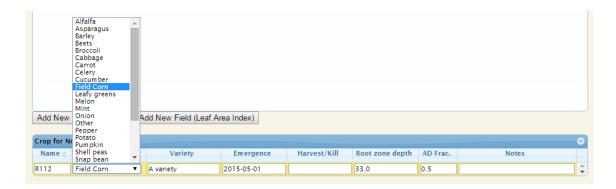
The target AD is the desired percentage of the Allowable Depletion you want to maintain or manage in the crop root zone. Using a full irrigation strategy you would irrigate back to field capacity (100% AD) for all irrigations. This is in contrast to a partial strategy where you irrigate to a predetermined fraction of AD (less than Fc) maintaining some soil water storage capacity to accommodate natural rainfall, which can reduce leaching from rainfall events. The target AD value is most easily set or modified directly from the *Field Status* screen where a horizontal line will be drawn across the time series graph at this value.

Experience using a partial irrigation strategy at the Hancock Research Station has shown that a target value of 70% worked well for most crops with the exception of potatoes where an 80% target worked best. It is recommended that you approach the determination of your irrigation target value with caution. For larger pivots be sure to consider the time it takes for the system to make it around the field and be certain there will be sufficient water available near the end of the cycle so plants do not go into severe water stress before the pivot reaches them.

Notes

Descriptive notes as needed (not required).

#### **Crop Inputs**



The current version of WISP supports a single crop per growing season.

<u>Parameter</u> <u>Comments / Explanation</u>

Crop Name / ID

and Variety User defined unique crop identifier.

Plant (drop down) Identification of the plant type. Pressing the left mouse

button while over the input box brings up a plant list.

Selection of a plant type automatically enters a default managed root zone depth which will be over written by a user input value.

Variety

Informational (not required)

Emergence Date (Calendar pop up)

The crop emergence date for annual crops is the date when approximately 50% of the crop has emerged using format YYYY- MM - DD. For perennials use the date of the start of active growth. This date will be the first date for reporting the seasonal water balance (irrigation, rainfall, ET and deep drainage) totals. You can right mouse click in the box to bring up the calendar.

Harvest /
Kill Date
(Calendar pop up)

The date when the crop is harvested or greater than 50% has stopped growing using format YYYY-MM-DD. This date is used to end the seasonal water balance totals. You can right mouse click in the box to bring up the calendar.

Root zone depth (in)

The managed crop root depth assumes no obstructing soil layer. See Appendix B located at the end of this guide for **approximate** root zone depths and the recommended installation depths for soil moisture sensors. Root zone depth can be impacted by many things (e.g. local soil conditions, timing of initial water applications, crop type, and plant hybrid) therefore the root zone depth is best confirmed in the field by measurement at full canopy. Again, note that selecting a plant type from the drop down menu also selects a default root zone depth.

Significant early growing season irrigation can reduce root depth development and therefore should be avoided. Plants having limiting root depth also have limited access to soil water later in the growing season and face a greater risk of lodging.

AD Frac. (Fraction)

The AD Frac. (0 - 1.0) is the fraction of total available water (TAW) that is plant extractable without causing water stress which can limit growth and yield. The default value of 0.50 is recommended for most crops. A smaller value could be used for crops that are very susceptible to water stress; however the default value is appropriate in the vast majority of cases.

#### III. FIELD STATUS SCREEN

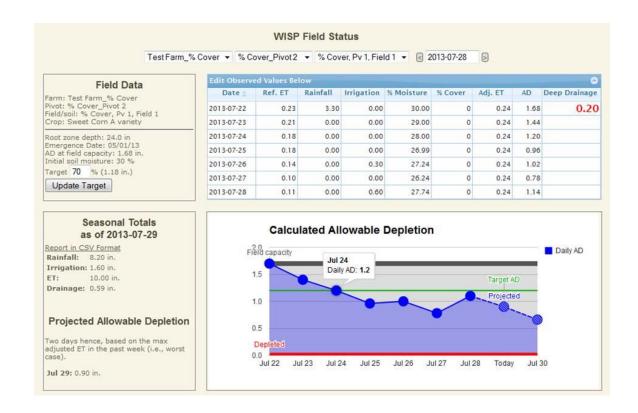
#### Field Status

Navigating the *Field Status* screen

The three drop-down menus at the top of the *Field Status* screen allow you to select the farm, pivot, and field of interest, respectively. The *Field Status* screen shows a week's worth of tabular data, nine days graphically and defaults to today's date. If a balance cannot be calculated for a given day (for instance, because it's in the future), it will be displayed as "projected" and indicated by a cross-hatched symbol. Projected values are calculated using the maximum ET from the previous week, or the last-entered potential ET. Located to right of these drop down menus is a calendar widget. Left mouse clicking over the date box brings up a calendar from which a date of interest can be selected. You can also move one week backward or forward by clicking the arrow buttons located to the right (forward in time) or left (back in time) of the date box.

#### Field Status Inputs

The Field Status screen provides daily tracking of the root zone soil water status as well as the total water into and out of the root zone. Daily values can be entered directly into the field status screen or by using the Multi-Edit feature. The Multi-Edit feature can apply rainfall (in), irrigation (in), soil moisture (%) or potential ET (in) values to all fields under a specified pivot by date from a single set of inputs. Refer to the Multi-Edit section below for additional detail.



#### Parameter

#### Comments / Explanation

Target AD (%)

User specified desired or target percentage of the AD that you want to maintain in the crop root zone. The input target AD value is graphed using a horizontal green line with the corresponding water volume (in) displayed to the right of the input box. Deleting the target AD value removes the line. All entries must be followed by pressing the Update Target button or the enter key to be displayed. The target AD can also be entered on the *Field Input* screen.

Poten. ET (in/day)

Potential evapotranspiration, in inches, will be imported automatically each day from the UWEX AGWX site using latitude and longitude values which must entered for this field's pivot. Potental ET values can also be entered here directly or via the Multi-Edit feature.

Rainfall (in/day)

Daily rainfall depth should be measured and must be entered into the model. Rainfall data should be collected from a location as close to the irrigated field as practical, preferably from several (3) locations within that field.

Irrigation (in/day)

Daily irrigation water application must be entered into the model and should be field checked on a regular basis. If an irrigation event is greater than a day the total irrigation volume should be divided by the number of days and entered on a daily basis.

% Moisture

WISP calculates the daily soil moisture, however the observed percent soil moisture can be entered directly and will used for all subsequent calculations to "ground truth" the model. These data should be entered weekly if possible. The initial default value is field capacity which can overwritten by user input. A rule of thumb is to correct model predicted soil moisture values when they differ by more than 2% from monitored values.

% Cover / LAI

If the percent cover ET option is selected from the *Farm Status* screen, the % cover column will appear on the *Field Status* screen and the user must enter the observed percent canopy cover. The percent canopy cover is used to adjust the daily potential ET. For % cover values over greater than or equal to 80%, the full potential ET is used. If the Leaf Area Index (LAI) option is selected, no user input is required and the model-estimated LAI is displayed in place of % cover. See **Appendix A** for percent cover field calculations. User input % cover values will have a green font color to distinguish them from interpolated values.

Note that when the current date extends beyond the last % cover value, the last entered % cover value is used for all calculations up to the current date and to the end of the current week.

#### **Field Status Screen Outputs**

<u>Parameter</u> <u>Comments / Explanation</u>

Date Simulation date.

Adj. ET (in/day) The adjusted ET (Adj. ET) = Poten. ET x Crop Coefficient,

(between 0 and 1). The fractional value of percent cover is used as a crop coefficient which is entered by the user or

calculated from the LAI value.

The UWEX AGWX-generated potential ET values can be overwritten by user inputs directly in the *Field Status* screen or via *Multi-Edit*.

% Moisture (%)

The calculated daily average root zone soil moisture (%) is displayed. As previously mentioned, this value can be replaced by observed data.

Allowable Depletion (in/day)

The allowable depletion (AD) balance for a given day is calculated as the balance from the previous day plus or minus any inputs and outputs. All fields are assumed to start the growing season with the root zone at field capacity (Fc) and the user-entered root zone depth. The initial monitored soil moisture should be entered if it is available. The AD is displayed in a tabular and graphical time series format.

The AD should be monitored closely and used to determine when irrigation is necessary. A negative value indicates depletion of readily available water and the initial onset of plant water stress.

Deep Drainage (in/day)

Deep drainage is shown in the right hand column in red and occurs when water is added to soil at field capacity thus, forcing water through the bottom of the root zone and deeper into the soil profile.

This condition must be avoided or minimized to the greatest extent practical. Deep drainage transports nutrients and pesticides deeper into the soil profile where they have a greater potential to enter groundwater or tile drains, if present. In addition, saturated soils create conditions favorable for disease and limits soil aeration, both of which can adversely impact crop health and yields. Avoiding irrigation just prior to rainfall and managing soil moisture levels can help reduce deep drainage.

AD Time Series Graph

Displays AD values (blue line and dots) for a one week time period along with a two day future projection. The future projection assumes no rainfall and uses the greatest ET value from the previous seven days.

The Field Capacity value is shown by a horizontal dark gray line, while the red line indicates depleted AD (AD = 0). The when water remains in the soil profile the graph

background is shaded blue, while the degree of depletion is shaded light gray. When the daily AD drops below 0, the background turns orange as a warning. Hovering over any line or point displays its value.

Seasonal Totals to Date

Displays the total rainfall, ET, irrigation and deep drainage in inches from the crop emergence date to the current date or Sept. 30th if the current date is later than Sept. 30. A crop emergence date must always be specified.

Projected AD

The dashed blue line segment and cross hashed points in the time series graph are the AD projected into the future. Projected values are determined using the maximum ET value from the previous week, assuming no rainfall. Note that when selecting days beyond the current day, WISP continues to project the AD forward in time. It is recommended that only **the first two projected values** shown at the bottom left be used. Values projected beyond two days into the future are highly uncertain.

#### IV. FIELD GROUPS AND MULTI-EDIT DAILY DATA

#### **Creating a Field Group**

The *Multi-Edit* feature applies rainfall (in), irrigation (in), soil moisture (%) or potential ET (in) values to all fields under a user specified pivot by date. Use of the *Multi-Edit* feature first requires that a field group be associated with each pivot. To add field groups to WISP, first select Field Groups from the main program menu located on the left side of the program screen, under the title. The Field Group screen includes a user defined group name, location and fields associated with each Field Group. To view information on an individual Field Group, edit or remove it select the <u>Show, Edit</u> or <u>Delete</u> links, respectively. Use the <u>Add New Field Group</u> link to add another station as shown below.

Name	Location	Notes		Fields		
Home Farm	East of main farm	Last inspected Fa	ll 2015		Show Edit	Delete
East Farm	Goodwin Twp.	Last inspected Fa	ll 2015		Show Edit	Delete
Add New Fie	ld Group					

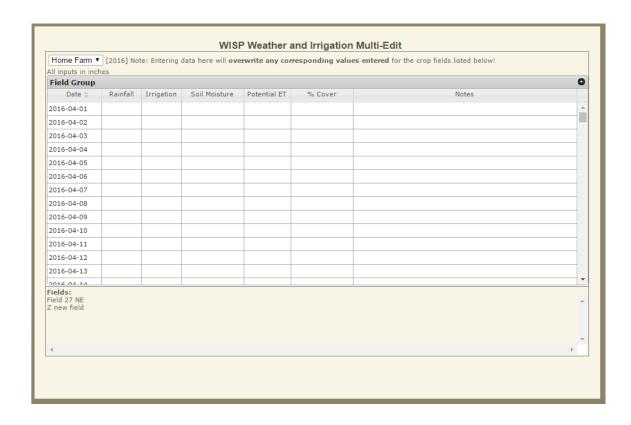
#### **Assigning Fields to a Field Group**

After a group has been created, use the <u>Edit</u> link for that station to assign individual fields to that group (see figure below). Simply select the fields from the Available Fields List on the right side of the screen and use the add buttons located between the screens to make the group / field association. To remove a field / group association, select the field to be removed on the left screen Fields Selected for this Group List and press the remove button to remove the field / group connection. **Note that a field can be in in multiple roups.** 



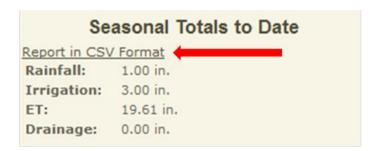
#### **Using the Multi-Edit Feature**

The *Multi-Edit* data input screen is activated by selecting the Multi-Edit Daily Data from the menu on the left side of the screen. After a pivot / Field Group link has been created, it will appear on the *Multi-Edit* data input screen as shown below. Note that the fields receiving the *Multi-Edit* data inputs are listed at the bottom of the page. To save your inputs you must press return after entering each line of Multi-Edit data. Be advised that entering data on the Multi-Edit screen overwrites the existing values of the variables selected, including zeros, for the date and fields listed at the bottom of the page. *Multi-Edit* cells left blank retain their existing values and will not be altered. Note that values entered on the *Multi-Edit* screen will remain on the *Multi-Edit* screen after being copied to the *Field Status* screen as a record of what was entered. In addition, values for a given input cell can be re-entered / corrected and will be copied from *Multi-Edit* to the *Field Status* screen a maximum of three (3) times.



#### V. REPORT IN CSV FORMAT

WISP allows you to export data from the *Field Status* page table as an electronic file using <u>Comma Separated Values (CSV)</u> format. The CSV file format is easily imported into MS Excel for further analysis, printout or archive purposes. The exported file will always start on April 1<sup>st</sup> and end on Oct. 31<sup>th</sup> and thus documents the root zone water balance for the majority of the frost free period. As shown below, the CSV report link is located in the <u>Seasonal Totals to Date</u> section in the lower right hand corner of the *Field Status* screen. Activate the report generation link by hovering over the underlined text and right clicking downloads the file directly to your computer.



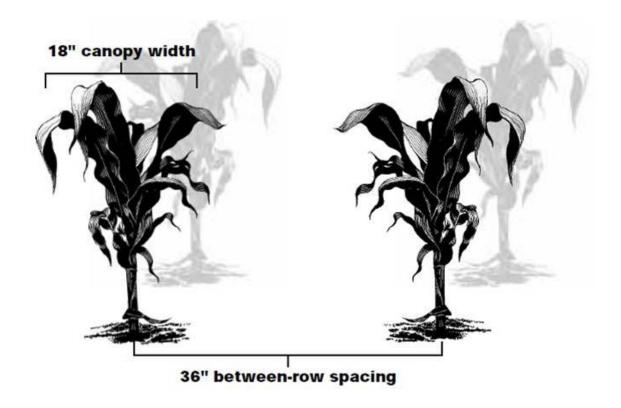
## APPENDIX A

The following material is from:

Curwen, D. and L.R. Massie. XXXX. Irrigation management in Wisconsin – the Wisconsin irrigation scheduling program (WISP). UWEX Publication number A3600. Available on line at: <a href="http://learningstore.uwex.edu/">http://learningstore.uwex.edu/</a>

Canopy cover values are entered from emergence up until 80% of the soil surface is covered by crop canopy. Estimate the percent cover for row crops by measuring the average crop canopy width and divide this value by the between-row spacing at ground level.

Example: The percent cover equals the average crop canopy width (18") divided by between-row width (36") or (18/36) = 0.50 or 50%.



### APPENDIX B

# Approximate irrigation management range and sensor placement depths by crop type, assuming no root confining layer.

	Irrigation Mgmt.	Shallow Sensor	Deep Sensor Depth		
Crop Type	Depth (in)	Depth (in) @ 25%	(in) @ 75%		
Broccoli &					
Cauliflower	12 -18	3 - 4	9 - 13		
Blueberry &					
Strawberry	12 -18	3 - 4	9 - 13		
Potato *	16	4	12		
Tomato &					
Cantaloupe	12 - 24	3 - 6	9 -18		
Dry, Snap and					
Green Bean	18 - 24	4 - 6	13 - 18		
Soy Bean	30 - 36	7 - 9	22 - 27		
Small Grains	30 - 36	7 - 9	22 - 27		
Sweet Corn &					
Asparagus	24 - 30	6 - 7	18 - 22		
Field Corn	30 - 36	7 - 9	22 - 27		
Established					
Alfalfa	36 - 48	9 - 12	27 - 36		

<sup>\*</sup> Measured from the top of the hill.