





- Convert the crop water requirement (expressed in mm/day) to a volumetric measure.

1 mm of water applied = 1 L/m<sup>2</sup>

100 mm of water applied = 1 ML/ha

**Step 3: Use the data from steps 1 and 2 to work out the expected period between irrigations for each month**

Readily available water (in soil) ÷ crop water requirement = irrigation interval

Month one: mm ÷ mm/day = days

Month two: mm ÷ mm/day = days

Month three: mm ÷ mm/day = days

Month four: mm ÷ mm/day = days

**Calculating how long to irrigate**

You need to know:

- Readily available water content of the area/volume wetted by the irrigation system
- Water application rate or discharge from the irrigation emitter/sprinkler

**Step 1: Calculate the readily available water (RAW) in the crop root zone.**

Use the same steps as for Step 1 in the section calculating when to irrigate above.

**Step 2: Measure the discharge from your irrigation application nozzle/emitter**

Discharge (L/hr) = volume in container (in Litres) ÷ time to fill container (in minutes) x 60 mins/hr

L ÷ mins x 60 mins/hr

Discharge rate = L/hr

For spray systems convert the discharge rate to mm/hr.

Discharge (mm/hr) = discharge (L/hr) ÷ (lateral spacing x nozzle spacing along lateral)

= L/hr ÷ (m x m)

= mm/hr

**Step 3: Use the data from steps 1 and 2 to calculate how long to irrigate.**

To calculate the period of irrigation

For spray irrigated systems: Readily available water (mm) ÷ discharge rate (mm/hr)

Month one: mm ÷ mm/hr = hrs

Month two: mm ÷ mm/hr = hrs

Month three: mm ÷ mm/hr = hrs

Month four: mm ÷ mm/hr = hrs

For more details contact the Growcom members access line on 07 3620 3844.

*Disclaimer: This information is provided as a reference tool only. Seek professional advice for irrigation specifics.*

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