Climatic based irrigation scheduling using evapotranspiration, or ET, information is an accepted irrigation management practice in Kansas.

KanSched is a computer decision support software program provided to irrigators and water managers at no cost through the Kansas State University Mobile Irrigation Lab project. KanSched users need to have access to daily ET information for successful implementation of ET-based scheduling. One information source is the weather data library of Kansas State University.

The Weather Data Library (WDL) can be accessed via the K-State Research and Extension Web site at www.oznet.ksu.edu/wdl. Once at the WDL home page (Fig. 1), click on the Kansas Weather and ET Data line.

Figure 1: The Kansas State University Weather Data Library home page.

Click on Kansas Weather & ET Data to access ET information

MIL Team Members:

Danny H. Rogers, P.E., Ph.D.
Extension Agricultural Engineer
Department of Bio & Ag Engr.
147 Seaton Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506
Phone: 785-532-5813
Fax: 785-532-6944
E-mail: drogers@ksu.edu

Mahbub Alam, Ph.D.
Extension Irrigation Specialist
SW Research Ext. Center
4500 E. Mary Street
Garden City, KS 67846
Phone: 620-275-9164
Fax: 620-276-6028
E-mail: malam@oznet.ksu.edu

L. Kent Shaw
MIL Program Coordinator
SW Research Ext. Center
4500 E. Mary Street
Garden City, KS 67846
Phone: 620-275-9164
Fax: 620-276-6028
E-mail: ilkshaw@ksu.edu

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The next page (Figure 2) will show the weather stations on a map. Click on either the location of interest in the map or select the station name using the drop down menu list to the right of “Enter Station ID.” After selecting the station of interest, use the drop down menus to select starting and ending dates of the period of interest. Click the submit query button to receive the data requested.

The data will be displayed as shown in Figure 3. Both grass and alfalfa reference crop ET values are displayed. Either ET reference base can be used in KanSched with the proper selection of Kco (crop coefficients) within KanSched.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Max Air Temp (°F)</th>
<th>Min Air Temp (°F)</th>
<th>Total Precip (in)</th>
<th>Avg RH (%)</th>
<th>Avg Wind Speed (ft/s)</th>
<th>Solar Radiation (langley)</th>
<th>ET (grass) (in)</th>
<th>ET (alfalfa) (in)</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/14/2008</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>60.8</td>
<td>9.79</td>
<td>470.3</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.15</td>
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<td>63.9</td>
<td>43.6</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<td>479.1</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<td>479.7</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Other Kansas State University irrigation Web sites:
www.oznet.ksu.edu – The K-State Research and Extension Web site provides access to county and state research and extension resources.
www.oznet.ksu.edu/irrigate – An irrigation Web site featuring Kansas irrigation research study results.
www.oznet.ksu.edu/sdi – A Web site with focus on subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) research programs and studies.