

Infrared Thermometry and the Crop Water Stress Index. II. Sampling Procedures and Interpretation

B. R. Gardner, D. C. Nielsen,* and C. C. Shock

Infrared thermometry can be a valuable research and production tool for detecting and quantifying water stress in plants, as shown by a large volume of published research. Users of infrared thermometers (IRT) should be aware of the many equipment, environmental, and plant factors influencing canopy temperature measured by an IRT. The purpose of this paper is to describe factors influencing measured plant temperature, outline sampling procedures that will produce reliable Crop Water Stress Index (CWSI) values, and offer interpretations of CWSI and plant temperatures relative to crop production and other water stress parameters by reviewing previously conducted research. Factors that are considered are IRT condition, configuration, and position; psychrometer location; wind speed; solar radiation; time of day; leaf area and orientation; and appropriate non-water-stressed baseline equation. Standard sampling and CWSI calculation procedures are proposed. Use of CWSI with crops varying in type of response to water stress is described. Previously conducted research on plant temperatures or CWSI is tabulated by crop and water stress parameters measured. The paper provides valuable information to assist interested users of IRTs in making reliable water stress measurements.

INFRARED THERMOMETRY can be used to remotely sense canopy temperature (Fuchs and Tanner, 1966). Canopy temperature can be used to calculate the CWSI which can be used to quantify water stress (Idso et al., 1981a). In a companion paper to this one (Gardner et al., 1992),

we reviewed the definition of CWSI and the determination and interpretation of the non-water-stressed baseline used to compute CWSI. Use of CWSI should allow for comparison of water stress severity and effects of water stress between locations, but only if uniform sampling procedures are followed. A great deal of research has been conducted over the past two decades relating CWSI and plant temperatures to other water stress parameters and crop productivity. The purposes of this paper are to:

1. identify equipment, environmental, and plant factors that influence canopy temperature measurements made by infrared thermometry;
2. suggest sampling procedures to follow that will produce reliable CWSI values;
3. offer interpretation of CWSI and plant temperatures relative to crop production and other water stress parameters by reviewing previously conducted research.

B.R. Gardner, BP Research, 4440 Warrensville Center Road, Cleveland, OH 44128. D.C. Nielsen, USDA-ARS Central Great Plains Res. Stn., P.O. Box 400, Akron, CO 80720. C.C. Shock, Malheur Exp. Stn., Oregon State University, 595 Onion Ave., Ontario, OR 97914. Oregon Agric. Exp. Stn. Tech. Paper no. 9856. Received 19 Mar. 1992.
*Corresponding author.

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FACTORS AFFECTING CANOPY TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENTS

A number of factors can influence the measurement of canopy temperature with an IRT. We have chosen to discuss these under the three general categories of instrumentation, environmental, and plant factors.

Instrumentation Factors Affecting Canopy Temperature Measurements

Most hand-held IRTs are powered by rechargeable batteries. It is essential that these batteries are regularly and fully recharged to ensure accurate readings. The IRT lens should be cleaned periodically to maintain accurate canopy temperature readings. IRTs can go out of calibration, and calibration should be checked periodically by comparing the IRT output to that of a target blackbody varying in temperature under ambient temperature conditions covering the range expected when the instrument is used in the field. The IRT calibration can also be checked in the field using a portable blackbody reference before and after measurements are taken. IRT readings may then be corrected based on any differences noted. Portable blackbodies can be purchased from IRT manufacturers or constructed following the design of Sadler and van Bavel (1982). Humidity and air temperature sensors also should be checked periodically to make sure that no changes in calibration have occurred.

Some IRTs show inaccurate readings when the temperature of the sensor is changing rapidly (e.g., moving into the field from areas not at ambient air temperature, such as an air conditioned building or the warm interior of a vehicle). This problem has been overcome by equipment manufacturers using mechanical devices called choppers or using computer algorithms to digitally compensate for equilibration errors. Equilibration errors of less than 0.2°C (0.36°F) are produced by these techniques (Graham et al., 1989). This same problem can affect the air temperature and humidity sensors. Unfortunately, these techniques cannot be applied to air temperature and humidity sensors. Consequently, it is essential that all sensors be at or near the ambient air conditions before readings are made to avoid inaccurate calculation of CWSI.

Location of the air temperature and vapor pressure deficit-measuring instrumentation can affect non-water-stressed baseline determinations, although the effect will be minimal for crops with non-water-stressed baseline slopes in the vicinity of -1.9°C (-3.4°F)/kPa (Idso et al., 1990). Site differences in air temperature are accompanied by compensatory changes in air vapor pressure deficit. As Idso et al. (1990) point out, calculating CWSI requires upper baselines (upper limit of canopy-air temperature difference) as well as non-water-stressed baselines, and different air temperature and vapor pressure deficit (VPD) measurement sites will affect the calculated CWSI values. But consistently using the same measurement site for all aspects of baseline determination and CWSI measurement will minimize the problem.

IRTs have varying fields of view that can affect the area of canopy viewed (spot size). The spot size should be calculated based on the IRT field of view, view angle, and distance from target (O'Toole and Real, 1984) so that the IRT operator is sure that the IRT is only measuring the crop canopy intended. A graphical representation (Fig. 1) and BASIC computer program listing of the field of view calculation are given in the Appendix to this paper. Another method for determining spot size is described by Jackson et al. (1980). In this method, a piece of aluminum foil is slowly moved into the IRT field of view until the sensed temperature drops considerably. A stake is placed in the ground at this point and the procedure repeated at several locations to mark off the actual area being viewed by the IRT. This is certainly a useful way for those new to IRT use to become aware of the amount of spatial averaging that the IRT is doing. Care can then be taken to point the IRT only at precise areas to be measured.

Environmental Factors Affecting Canopy Temperature Measurements

O'Toole and Hatfield (1983) found that canopy temperature measured with an IRT declined with increasing wind speed. This occurs in response to the decline in aerodynamic resistance to sensible heat transfer that occurs with increasing wind speed. They suggested that this relationship could result in errors in CWSI determination, but their data only covered a range of about 1.0 to 6.5 mph (0.5 to 3.0 m/s). Our experience confirms that, under these low wind speeds, there is indeed an effect of wind speed on canopy temperature, but that the importance of the effect is small for wind speeds above 6 mph (2.5 m/s) since aerodynamic resistance decreases slowly with increases in wind speed above 6 mph (2.5 m/s) (Howell et al., 1986). In many locations, afternoon wind speeds are greater than 6 mph (2.5 m/s). This is the time when CWSI measurements are generally taken to detect maximum water stress. In these locations, users of infrared thermometry should probably only be concerned with wind speed effects when wind speed is less than 6 mph (2.5 m/s). In locations where wind speeds during measurement times are typically less than 6 mph (2.5 m/s), and the non-water-stressed baselines were determined under low wind speeds, users should be aware of the potential for obtaining large negative CWSI values when wind speeds are high.

An additional environmental factor to be aware of when using infrared thermometry is solar radiation level. Solar radiation influences the radiative heat load on the plant canopy. Stone et al. (1975) showed the effect of cloud passages, and the resultant decline in solar radiation, on the temperature of a grain sorghum [*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench.] canopy measured with an infrared thermometer. They found that canopy temperature dropped nearly 4°C (7.2°F) when solar radiation dropped from 1.4 to 0.5 ly/min (975 to 350 W/sq m). Over the same radiation decline, Wiegand and Namken (1966) reported an 8°C (14.4°F) drop in cotton (*Gossypium hir-*

Table 1. Previous research relating Crop Water Stress Index or plant temperatures to other water stress measurements, water use, and plant productivity. (Crop and parameter codes are defined in Table 2.)

Source	Crops	Parameters measured	Source	Crops	Parameters measured
Abdul-Jabbar et al., 1985	1	1, 6, 7	Van Zyl, 1986	13	1, 2, 4
Carter and Sheaffer, 1983	1	1, 2, 5	Williams and Grimes, 1986	13	1, 2, 6
Clawson et al., 1989	1	1, 6, 7	Peterschmitt and Perrier, 1991	14, 28	1, 6
Fuchs and Tanner, 1966	1, 4, 33, 37	1	Allen et al., 1987	15	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
Grimes and Roberts, 1989	1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	Nakayama and Bucks, 1983	15	1, 4
Halim et al., 1990	1	1, 7	Nakayama and Bucks, 1984	15	1, 4, 7
Hatfield et al., 1983	1, 30, 38, 42	1, 6	Chaudhuri et al., 1986	18, 30	1, 4
Hatfield et al., 1984a	1, 9, 30, 31, 38	1, 6	Singh and Kanemasu, 1983	18	1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Hattendorf et al., 1988	1	1, 7	Tormann, 1986	20	1, 2, 5
Hattendorf et al., 1990	1	1, 5, 7	Sandhu and Horton, 1978	21	1, 5
Idso, 1982	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10	1	Aston and van Bavel, 1972	22	1, 4
Idso et al., 1981a	1, 31, 32	1	Clark and Hiler, 1973	22	1, 2, 5
Idso et al., 1981c	1	1, 2	Glenn et al., 1989	23	1, 6
Jackson et al., 1983	1, 31, 33, 38, 42	1, 6	Sammis et al., 1988	25	1, 5
Miller and Saunders, 1923	1, 8, 10, 27, 30, 31	1, 6	Shock et al., 1987	26	1, 4
Pinter, 1983	1	1, 7	Sithole, 1987	26	1, 7
Reginato et al., 1978	1	1, 7	Stark and Wright, 1985	26	1, 2, 4
Sharratt et al., 1983	1	1, 2, 6	O'Toole et al., 1984	28	1, 2, 3, 5
Tanner, 1963	1, 26	1	Turner et al., 1986	28	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
Temple and Benoit, 1988	1	1, 2, 4, 6	Ehrler and van Bavel, 1967	30	1, 4, 5, 6
Oi et al., 1989	2	1, 2	Faver et al., 1989	30	1, 6
Hatfield et al., 1979	3, 42	1, 4, 6, 7	Gardner et al., 1981a	30	1, 6, 7
Tubaileh et al., 1986	3	1, 2, 6	Hatfield et al., 1984b	30	1, 4
Blad et al., 1978	4	1	Hatfield, 1982	30	1, 2, 4, 6
Hatfield, 1979	4	1	Hatfield, 1983	30	1, 6, 7
O'Toole and Hatfield, 1983	4, 8, 9, 30	1	Stone and Horton, 1974	30	1, 6
Walker and Hatfield, 1979	4	1, 5, 7	Kanemasu et al., 1976	30, 31	1, 6
Walker and Hatfield, 1983	4	1, 7	Carlson et al., 1972	31	1, 2
Saha et al., 1986	7	1, 4, 6	Cure et al., 1989	31	1, 4
Sivakumar, 1986	7	1, 6, 7	Dornbos et al., 1989	31	1, 7
Braunworth and Mack, 1989	8	1, 4, 6, 7	Nielsen, 1990	31	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Calle et al., 1990	8	1, 4	Nielsen et al., 1984	31	1
Choudhury, 1983	8	1, 4	Reicosky et al., 1980	31	1, 6
Clawson and Blad, 1982	8	1	Reicosky et al., 1985b	31	1, 2, 6
Fiscus et al., 1991	8	1, 2, 5, 7	Scherer, 1988	31	1, 4
Gardner et al., 1981b	8	1, 7	Sikkema and Decker, 1987	31	1, 7
Gardner et al., 1981c	8	1	Robinson, 1984	34	1, 4
Gardner et al., 1986	8	1	Pinter et al., 1979	34	1
Geiser et al., 1982	8	1, 7	Khera and Sandhu, 1986	35	1, 2, 4, 5
Keener and Kircher, 1983	8	1, 7	Choudhury and Idso, 1984	36	1, 2, 4
Kirkham et al., 1984	8	1, 7	Nielsen and Anderson, 1989	36	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Mtui et al., 1981	8	1, 6, 7	Kateriji et al., 1987	38	1, 2, 5
Nielsen and Gardner, 1987	8	1, 6, 7	Agnew and Carrow	39	1, 2, 5
Shanahan and Nielsen, 1987	8	1, 6, 7	Slack, 1988	39	1, 5
Burke et al., 1988	9, 42	1, 7	Slack et al., 1986	39	1, 6
Burke et al., 1990	9	1, 7	Throssell et al., 1987	39	1, 4
Choudhury, 1986	9	1, 3	Idso et al., 1984a	41	1, 5, 6
Eaton and Beldon, 1929	9	1, 6, 7	Idso et al., 1984b	41	1, 3, 5, 6
Ehrler, 1973	9	1, 4, 5	Berliner et al., 1984	42	1, 2, 5
Garrot et al., 1987	9	1, 6, 7	Blum et al., 1982	42	1, 2, 5
Hatfield et al., 1985	9	1	Choudhury and Idso, 1985	42	1, 2, 5, 6
Hatfield et al., 1987	9	1, 7	Choudhury et al., 1986	42	1, 6
Howell et al., 1984a	9	1, 2, 5, 7	Diaz et al., 1983	42	1, 6, 7
Howell et al., 1984b	9	1, 2, 7	Ehrler et al., 1978a	42	1, 2, 4
Idso and Ehrler, 1976	9, 30	1, 4	Ehrler et al., 1978b	42	1, 2
Idso et al., 1982a	9	1, 2, 4	Hatfield, 1984	42	1, 2, 5
Idso et al., 1982b	9	1, 3, 5	Hope and Jackson, 1989	42	1, 6
Idso et al., 1989	9, 41	1, 3	Howell et al., 1986	42	1, 2
Jackson, 1991	9	1, 2	Idso et al., 1977a	42	1, 2, 4, 7
Keener and Gardner, 1987	9, 31	1, 5	Idso et al., 1977b	42	1, 7
Palmer, 1967	9	1, 4	Idso et al., 1979a	42	1, 7
Pinter and Reginato, 1982	9	1, 2	Idso et al., 1979b	42	1, 7
Pinter et al., 1983	9	1, 7	Idso et al., 1981b	42	1, 2, 7
Reginato, 1983	9	1, 2, 5, 7	Jackson, 1982	42	1, 4
Reginato and Howe, 1985	9	1	Jackson et al., 1977	42	1, 4, 6, 7
Reicosky et al., 1985a	9	1, 4	Jackson et al., 1981	42	1, 4, 6
Wanjura et al., 1984	9	1, 2	Nielsen and Halvorson, 1991	42	1, 4, 6, 7
Wanjura et al., 1990	9, 30	1, 7	Smith et al., 1985	42	1, 7
Wiegand and Namken, 1966	9	1	Smith et al., 1989	42	1, 6
Pandey et al., 1984	10, 19, 24, 31	1, 2, 7	Steiner et al., 1985	42	1, 7
Grimes and Williams, 1990	13	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	Tripathis et al., 1985	42	1, 2
Krauter, 1987	13	1, 5	Zipoli et al., 1987	42	1, 6, 7

sutum L.) canopy temperature. Similarly, the canopy temperature of orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata* L.) declined 0.6°C (1.1°F) for each 0.14 ly/min (100 W/sq m) decrease in net radiation (C.M. Feldhake, USDA-ARS, Beckley, WV, 1990, personal communication). Pennington and Heatherly (1989) presented similar results for soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.] and cotton. They also reported that amount of change in canopy temperature for a given change in solar radiation increased with increasing water stress. Stone et al. (1975) reported that approximately 1 to 2 min were required to achieve near steady-state canopy temperature in a grain sorghum canopy on the descent portion of a radiation change, and that less time was required on the ascent portion of a radiation change. Pennington and Heatherly (1989) reported that 100 s were needed for near steady-state canopy temperatures of soybean and cotton to manifest themselves following a solar radiation change, and that the rate of change was the same for both increasing and decreasing solar radiation levels. Some crops may require longer times following a cloud passage to come back to a steady-state temperature. C.F. Krauter (California State University, Fresno, 1992, personal communication) found that for grapes (*Vitis* spp.) in California, the time to return to steady-state temperature was approximately 10 min. Consequently, it is important to not take canopy temperature measurements when solar radiation level is low or changing rapidly due to cloud passages. Equally important is to avoid making measurements when the solar radiation is low due to low solar elevation angle. Alternatively, Pennington and Heatherly (1989) present a method for correcting canopy minus air temperature values for the changing solar radiation conditions that regularly occur in humid environments with frequent, intermittent cloud cover.

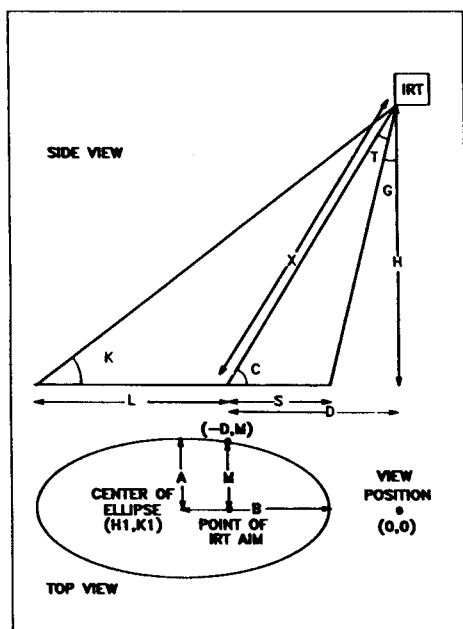


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of spot viewed by an inclined infrared thermometer (IRT) with angles and lengths noted for use with IRT spot size calculation described in Appendix 1.

In using infrared thermometry to detect and quantify crop water stress, we are usually most interested in detecting the maximum water stress that is occurring during the day. This most often occurs in the early afternoon when VPD is greatest. Gardner et al. (1992) discussed how non-water-stressed baselines for computing CWSI are determined, and how natural variability in measured canopy temperatures occur within a sampling period. Meaningful values of CWSI are obtained when this variability influences the CWSI calculation the least, and that occurs when VPD is large. Referring to Eq. 1, Fig. 1, and Table 1 of Gardner et al. (1992), the value of MAX-MIN under low VPD conditions is much smaller than when VPD is high. Using the Indiana baseline in Table 1 (Gardner et al., 1992) and assuming $\text{MAX} = 6^{\circ}\text{C}$, a change of 0.5°C (0.9°F) in dT at $\text{VPD} = 2 \text{ kPa}$ results in CWSI changing by 2.1 units. The same change in dT at $\text{VPD} = 4 \text{ kPa}$ results in CWSI changing by 0.7 units. Hence, the higher the VPD during measurement periods, the less likely CWSI is to be adversely affected by the natural variability of the parameters being measured.

Plant Factors Affecting Canopy Temperature Measurements

As noted earlier, solar radiation, by its influence on the radiative heat load of the plant, is an important factor affecting measured canopy temperature. But even when incoming solar radiation levels are high and nearly constant, there is still variability in the measured canopy temperature due to the differing radiative heat load between sunlit and shaded leaves. Fuchs et al. (1967) and Nielsen et al. (1984) showed how the measured canopy temperatures of various crop canopies were strongly influenced by whether primarily sunlit or shaded leaves were being measured. Gardner and Shock (1989) found stressed and nonstressed leaves had virtually the same temperature in the shade. If our objective is to measure the maximum water stress on the plant, then measurements of mostly sunlit leaves are preferable since these leaves are more likely to experience water stress sooner and to a greater degree than shaded leaves. Shaded leaves can be much cooler than sunlit leaves, resulting in values of dT much lower than predicted by the non-water-stressed baseline equation. Care also should be exercised to avoid shading of individual leaves by the IRT when measurements are made very close to the canopy (Nielsen and Anderson, 1989).

Early in the growing season when plants are small, or under conditions of low plant populations, a significant amount of soil surface may be viewed with the plant surface when making IRT measurements. This can greatly increase the measured canopy temperature (Hatfield, 1979; Heilman et al., 1981; Matthias et al., 1987). To minimize viewing of soil surface by the IRT, measurements can be made at right angles to the row direction and at a shallow angle of incidence (e.g., the IRT pointed down at a small angle from horizontal). Nielsen and Anderson (1989) also suggested using an IRT with a narrow field of view to get temperatures of individual, sunlit leaves of broadleaf plants that are small or widely spaced.

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

The CWSI normalizes the canopy-air temperature difference for differences in vapor pressure deficit. This should allow measurements made in different locations to be compared. But, as noted above, there are a number of other equipment, environmental, and plant factors affecting canopy temperature measurements made with an IRT that can greatly influence the calculated CWSI and destroy comparability between measurements made by researchers at different locations. We suggest the following standard sampling and calculation procedures for determining CWSI to enhance the opportunity for comparing measurements between locations.

1. Make sure the IRT batteries are fully charged.
2. Make sure the IRT lens is clean.
3. Calibrate the IRT annually and check the calibration daily with a portable blackbody source.
4. Periodically check the calibration of the air temperature and humidity sensors.
5. If humidity measurements are made with a psychrometer, be sure the wet bulb wick is clean and free of contaminants such as dirt, salt, or oils.
6. Allow the IRT and air temperature and humidity sensors sufficient time in a shaded environment to equilibrate to ambient conditions (30–60 min is usually sufficient).
7. Determine spot size of the IRT for the given instrument field of view, distance from target, and height above target to be sure that only the desired canopy surfaces are measured.
8. Begin readings no earlier than 30 min before solar noon and finish readings no later than 3 hr after solar noon to ensure that measurements are made during the time when daily maximum water stress is likely to occur, and when solar radiation and vapor pressure deficit are high.
9. Take readings only when solar radiation levels are high, normally under a clear sky. Measurements can generally be taken even with a thin layer of cirrus clouds in front of the sun if solar radiation levels are still high enough for objects to cast distinct shadows. In areas where convective cumulus clouds typically develop in early and mid-afternoon, measurements can continue following brief passages of clouds if sufficient time (about 60–100 s) is allowed between the end of the cloud passage and the resumption of measurements for canopy temperatures to return to pre-cloud-passage levels. (Alternatively, correct canopy minus air temperature measurements for changing solar radiation levels following the method of Pennington and Heatherly [1989]).
10. Be sure that plant foliage is dry.
11. Air temperature and humidity measurements should be made close to where the canopy temperature measurements are made, but avoiding abnormal areas, such as over roads. We suggest air temperature and humidity measurements be made as close to the standard observation height (5 ft [1.5 m]) as possible.

12. Keep the sun approximately at your back, aiming the IRT generally away from the direction of the sun to maximize the percentage of sunlit leaves in the IRT field of view.
13. Avoid including shadows, wood, soil, sky, dead leaves, and anything else that is not green, sunlit vegetation in the IRT view. Avoid viewing soil by using low viewing angles and aiming the IRT at approximately right angles to the row direction. Avoid vegetation on the borders of fields and plots.
14. Make measurements when wind speed is greater than 6 mph (2.5 m/s) and VPD is greater than 2 kPa.
15. If instantaneous measurements of canopy temperature are being made, we suggest taking at least 12 measurements per area viewed to average out fluctuations due to wind speed and spatial variability.
16. Calculate CWSI using a non-water-stressed baseline that has been generated with data covering a VPD range of 1 to 6 kPa, if possible. If this is not available, be sure that the applicable VPD range for the baseline is reported, and that you are not using the baseline outside of the range of data used to generate it.
17. We suggest that the upper limit of the canopy-air temperature difference (MAX as defined by Gardner et al., 1992) be a constant as determined from observations of severely water-stressed canopies.
18. Be consistent. Use the same premeasurement and sampling protocol each time measurements are made. When reporting experimental results, fully describe measurement and calculation procedures.

CWSI AND PLANT FUNCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY

Each crop has a unique productivity response to water stress. Consequently, the relationship of CWSI values to crop productivity also varies from crop to crop. We have identified four general categories of yield/quality vs CWSI relationships.

Crops extremely sensitive to water stress. Crops in this category cannot be scheduled for irrigation based on changes in CWSI readings, since any water stress that can be detected by a change in CWSI can reduce economic yield (Stark and Wright, 1985). Potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) are an example of this category of crop. Water stress during tuber growth rapidly leads to a loss in tuber grade and internal tuber quality. Even though CWSI cannot be used to schedule irrigations for crops in this very sensitive category, CWSI can be used to monitor fields for uniformity of irrigation application or to detect disease problems by looking for hot spots.

Crops that tolerate mild water stress. Crops in this category can very effectively have irrigations scheduled by CWSI because no significant economic loss is incurred by allowing the plant to experience a mild water stress during the time between stress detection with the IRT and application of irrigation. Crops in this category include

Table 2. Crop and parameter codes used in Table 1.

Code	Crop	Code	Crop	Code	Crop
1	Alfalfa	15	Guayule	29	Rutabaga
2	Almond	16	Kohlrabi	30	Sorghum
3	Barley	17	Lettuce	31	Soybean
4	Beans	18	Millet	32	Squash
5	Beet	19	Mungbean	33	Sudangrass
6	Chard	20	Nectarines	34	Sugarbeet
7	Chickpea	21	Oats	35	Sugarcane
8	Corn	22	Pea	36	Sunflower
9	Cotton	23	Peach	37	Tobacco
10	Cowpeas	24	Peanut	38	Tomato
11	Cucumber	25	Pecans	39	Turf
12	Fig tree	26	Potato	40	Turnip
13	Grapes	27	Pumpkin	41	Water hyacinth
14	Groundnut	28	Rice	42	Wheat

Code	Parameter measured
1	CWSI/plant temperature
2	Plant/leaf water potential
3	Leaf photosynthesis
4	Soil water content
5	Stomatal resistance/conductance
6	Evapotranspiration/leaf transpiration
7	Yield

wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.), corn (*Zea mays* L.), and cotton. CWSI is allowed to rise 2 to 3 index units (on a scale of 0 = no stress, 10 = maximum stress) between irrigations. Wine and raisin grapes can tolerate mild water stress, and may experience improvements in quality at mild CWSI levels (C.F. Krauter, California State University, Fresno, 1992, personal communication).

Crops that tolerate moderate water stress. CWSI can be allowed to rise to moderate levels (5 index units) before irrigations are applied. Sugarbeets (*Beta vulgaris* L. subsp. *vulgaris*) are an example of this category of crop. Experiments have shown that significant water can be saved with only a slight reduction in yield of recoverable sugar when irrigations are scheduled based on a moderate level of allowable water stress (Shock et al., 1989).

Crops that benefit from severe water stress. Crops in this category actually have improved yield under severe water stress, and CWSI can be used effectively to monitor and control the severity and timing of water stress. Seed alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) is an example of this type of crop. Under high levels of CWSI, it appears that insect pollinator activity is increased, vegetative growth is restricted producing a more open canopy, and flower production is enhanced. In situations such as alfalfa seed production, it is critical that once extreme stress levels have been reached, that stress be removed with an irrigation. CWSI provides an effective means of cycling water stress between high and low levels to promote seed production.

Successful use of CWSI in monitoring water stress and scheduling irrigations requires identification of the category of productivity response to water stress that exists for a particular crop, and learning through experience what target levels of CWSI are appropriate. As an aid to those readers wishing to pursue the use of CWSI and infrared thermometry for water stress detection and quantification, we present in Table 1 a compilation of previous work conducted on a variety of crop and plant species relating plant temperature or CWSI to other water stress measurements, soil water content, evapotranspira-

tion, and yield. The crop and parameters-measured codes used in Table 1 are defined in Table 2. The table is not all-inclusive of research conducted in this area, but does provide sufficient data to assist and support the practical use of CWSI and infrared thermometry to quantify water stress in a wide variety of plant species. In general, increasing CWSI or plant temperature is shown to be well correlated with decreasing leaf water potential, stomatal conductance, photosynthesis rate, soil water content, evapotranspiration, and yield. Several references are listed in which only plant temperature or CWSI is reported. These are included because of the information reported regarding irrigation scheduling, non-water-stressed baselines, or measurement technique.

INTERPRETIVE SUMMARY

Infrared thermometry has been used as a research tool to measure plant temperatures and quantify water stress for over two decades. The CWSI normalizes plant minus air temperature measurements made with an IRT to vapor pressure deficit, reducing variability in water stress measurements due to environmental variability. To reduce measurement variability and increase the usefulness of CWSI further, users should understand the effects on canopy temperature of: IRT condition, field of view, distance from target, and azimuthal position relative to sun; location of air temperature and humidity measurements; variable wind speed and solar radiation; time of day; leaf area and orientation; and non-water-stressed baseline definition. Standard sampling procedures should be defined, documented, and consistently followed.

Interpreting the meaning of CWSI measurements relative to the water status of a particular plant species requires knowledge of a plant's productivity response to water stress. Crops that are extremely sensitive to water stress may not have irrigations adequately scheduled by CWSI, while crops that tolerate mild to moderate water stress, or that benefit from water stress imposed at specific growth stages, can have irrigations very effectively scheduled by CWSI.

A large body of literature exists describing research on using infrared thermometry to measure water stress on a wide range of agronomic and horticultural crops. Interested users should refer to this literature when developing plans for water stress measurements or irrigation scheduling with an IRT.

APPENDIX. CALCULATION OF IRT SPOT SIZE.

Given:

- H = IRT height above viewed surface
- D = horizontal distance from IRT to target
- T = one-half of IRT field of view (in degrees)

then:

$$X = \sqrt{D^2 + H^2} \quad [1]$$

$$C = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{H}{D} \right) \quad [2]$$

$$G = 90 - T - C \quad [3]$$

$$K = C - T \quad [4]$$

By the Law of Sines:

$$S = \frac{\sin(T) \times X}{\sin(G + 90)} \quad [5]$$

$$L = \frac{\sin(T) \times X}{\sin(K)} \quad [6]$$

then:

$$B = \frac{S + L}{2} \quad [7]$$

Next, solve for A using the equation for an ellipse with center at point $(H1, K1)$:

$$\frac{(X1 - H1)^2}{B^2} + \frac{(Y - K1)^2}{A^2} = 1 \quad [8]$$

With the view position at location $(0, 0)$, then the known point on the ellipse has coordinates $(-D, M)$ where

$$M = \tan(T) \times X \quad [9]$$

and the center of the ellipse $(H1, K1)$ has coordinates $(-D + L - B, 0)$.

Substituting for $X1, H1, Y,$ and $K1$ into Eq. 8 gives:

$$\frac{(L - B)^2}{B^2} + \frac{M^2}{A^2} = 1 \quad [10]$$

Rearranging Eq. 10 yields:

$$A = \frac{M}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{L - B}{B} \right)^2}} \quad [11]$$

so that:

- width of ellipse is $2A$
- length of ellipse is $2B$
- declination angle of IRT is C
- length of short axis of field of view is S
- length of long axis of field of view is L
- area of ellipse of $\pi \times A \times B$

```

10 REM .....
15 REM ** THIS PROGRAM CALCULATES THE AREA OF THE VIEWED SPOT SEEN BY **
20 REM ** AN IRT. THE INPUTS FOR THE PROGRAM ARE THE HEIGHT OF THE **
25 REM ** INSTRUMENT ABOVE THE VIEWED SURFACE, HORIZONTAL DISTANCE **
30 REM ** FROM THE INSTRUMENT LOCATION TO THE VIEWED SURFACE, AND THE **
35 REM ** FIELD OF VIEW OF THE INSTRUMENT (IN DEGREES), HEIGHT AND **
40 REM ** DISTANCE MUST BE IN THE SAME UNITS OF MEASURE. **
45 REM ** .....
50 REM ** A IS 1/2 OF THE MINOR AXIS OF THE VIEWED ELLIPSE **
55 REM ** B IS 1/2 OF THE MAJOR AXIS OF THE VIEWED ELLIPSE **
60 REM .....
70 CLS
80 INPUT "ENTER IRT HEIGHT ABOVE THE VIEWED SURFACE (ANY UNITS)";H
90 PRINT "ENTER HORIZONTAL DISTANCE FROM IRT LOCATION TO VIEWED SURFACE"
100 PRINT "(use same units as for IRT height)"
110 INPUT D
120 INPUT "ENTER IRT FIELD OF VIEW (DEGREES)";T
130 RAD = 0.17453293#
140 T = T/2
150 C = (ATN(H/D))*360/(2*3.14159)
160 X = SQR(D^2 + H^2)
170 G = 90 - T - C
180 K = C - T
190 S = SIN(T*RAD)*X/SIN((G+90)*RAD)
195 SK = SIN(K*RAD);IF SK < .02 THEN SK = .02
200 L = SIN(T*RAD)*X/SK
210 B = .5*(S+L)
220 M = X*TAN(T*RAD)
230 A = M/SQR(1 - ((L-B)/B)^2)
240 PRINT
250 PRINT "ELLIPSE WIDTH IS";2*A
260 PRINT "ELLIPSE LENGTH IS";2*B
270 PRINT "IRT DECLINATION ANGLE IS";C
280 PRINT "LENGTH OF SHORT AXIS IS";S
290 PRINT "LENGTH OF LONG AXIS IS";L
300 PRINT "AREA OF ELLIPSE IS";3.14159*A*B
310 PRINT
320 IF K < 1 THEN PRINT "CAUTION - SOME SKY MAY BE SEEN"
330 IF K < -1 THEN PRINT "DO NOT USE AT THIS ANGLE"
340 END

```

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