Model Calculations

The Model calculates the water demand for each polygon by using crop, irrigation, soil and climate parameters as explained below. Each polygon has been assigned an ID number as mentioned previously.

It should be noted that in coastal regions like the Regional District of Nanaimo, many low-lying areas have high water tables which will reduce the overall irrigation demand. Agricultural water demand results from the Model will therefore be higher than what may actually be used as water tables have not been taken into the equation.

Crop

The CropID is an attribute of the PolygonID as each polygon will contain a single crop. The crop information (observed during the land use survey) has been collected and stored with PolygonID as part of the land use survey. CropID will provide cropping attributes to the Model for calculating water use for each polygon. CropID along with the climate data will also be used to calculate the growing season length and the beginning and end of the growing season. The attributes for CropID include rooting depth, availability coefficient, crop coefficient and a drip factor.

Rooting depth is the rooting depth for a mature crop in a deep soil.

An availability coefficient is assigned to each crop. The availability coefficient is used with the IrrigID to determine the soil moisture available to the crop for each PolygonID.

The crop coefficient adjusts the calculated ET_o for the stages of crop growth during the growing season. Crop coefficient curves have been developed for every crop. The crop coefficient curve allows the Model to calculate water demand with an adjusted daily ET_o value throughout the growing season.

The drip factor is used in the water use calculation for polygons where drip irrigation systems are used. Since the Model calculates water use by area, the drip factor adjusts the percentage of area irrigated by the drip system for that crop.

Irrigation

The IrrigID is an attribute of the PolygonID as each polygon will have a single irrigation system type operating. The irrigation information has been collected and stored (as observed during the land use survey) with the land use data. The land use survey determined if a polygon had an irrigation system operating, what the system type was, and if the system was being used. The IrrigID has an irrigation efficiency listed as an attribute.

Two of the IrrigID's, Overtreedrip and Overtreemicro are polygons that have two systems in place. Two irrigation ID's occur when an overhead irrigation system has been retained to provide crop cooling or frost protection. In this case, the efficiencies used in the Model are the drip and microsprinkler efficiencies.

Soil

The soil layer came from CAPAMP at the Ministry of Environment. In addition, soil data provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) was also used to generate multiple soil layers within each polygon. Each parcel was assigned the most predominant soil polygon, and then for each crop field within that soil polygon, the most predominant texture within the crop's rooting depth was determined and assigned to the crop field.

Note that textures could repeat at different depths – the combined total of the thicknesses determined the most predominant texture. For example, a layer of 20 cm sand, followed by 40 cm clay and then 30 cm of sand would have sand be designated at the predominant soil texture.

The attributes attached to the SoilID is the Available Water Storage Capacity (AWSC) which is calculated using the soil texture and crop rooting depth.

The Maximum Soil Water Deficit (MSWD) is calculated to determine the parameters for the algorithm that is used to determine the Irrigation Requirement (IR). The Soil Moisture Deficit at the beginning of the season is calculated using the same terms as the MSWD.

Climate

The climate data in the Model is used to calculate a daily reference evapotranspiration rate (ET_o) for each climate grid cell. The data that is required to calculate this value are:

- Elevation, metres (m)
- Latitude, degrees (^{o})
- Minimum Temperature, degree Celsius (^{o}C)
- Maximum Temperature, degree Celsius (^{o}C)
- Classification as Coastal or Interior
- Classification as Arid or Humid
- Julian Day

Data that is assumed or are constants in this calculation are:
- Wind speed   2 m/s
- Albedo or canopy reflection coefficient,   0.23
- Solar constant, G_{sc} 0.082 MJ^{-2}min^{-1}
- Interior and Coastal coefficients, K_{Rs} 0.16 for interior locations
                                                    0.19 for coastal locations
- Humid and arid region coefficients, K_o 0 °C for humid/sub-humid climates
                                                    2 °C for arid/semi-arid climates

Agricultural Water Demand Equation

The Model calculates the Agriculture Water Demand (AWD) for each polygon, as a unique crop, irrigation system, soil and climate data is recorded on a polygon basis. The polygons are then summed to determine the AWD for each cadastre. The cadastre water demand values are then summed to determine AWD for the basin, sub-basin, water purveyor or local government. The following steps provide the process used by the Model to calculate Agricultural Water Demand. Detailed information is available on request.

1. *Pre-Season Soil Moisture Content*

Prior to the start of each crop's growing season, the soil's stored moisture content is modelled using the soil and crop evaporation and transpiration characteristics and the daily precipitation values. Precipitation increases the soil moisture content and evaporation (modelled using the reference potential evapotranspiration) depletes it. In general, during the pre-season, the soil moisture depth cannot be reduced beyond the maximum evaporation depth; grass crops in wet climates, however, can also remove moisture through crop transpiration.

The process used to model the pre-season soil moisture content is:

1. Determine whether the modelling area is considered to be in a *wet* or *dry* climate (see *Wet/Dry Climate Assessment*), and retrieve the early season evaporation factor in the modelling area
2. For each crop type, determine the start of the growing season (see *Growing Season Boundaries*)
3. For each crop and soil combination, determine the *maximum soil water deficit* (MSWD) and *maximum evaporation factor* (maxEvaporation)
4. Start the initial storedMoisture depth on January 1 at the MSWD level
5. For each day between the beginning of the calendar year and the crop's growing season start, calculate a new stored moisture from:

   a. the potential evapotranspiration (ET_o)
   b. the early season evaporation factor (earlyEvaporationFactor)
   c. the effective precipitation (EP) = actual precipitation x earlyEvaporationFactor
   d. daily Climate Moisture Deficit (CMD) = ET_o – EP
   e. storedMoisture = previous day's storedMoisture – CMD

A negative daily CMD (precipitation in excess of the day's potential evapotranspiration) adds to the stored moisture level while a positive climate moisture deficit reduces the amount in the stored moisture reservoir. The stored moisture cannot exceed the maximum soil moisture deficit; any precipitation that would take the stored moisture level above the MSWD gets ignored.

For all crops and conditions except for grass in wet climates, the stored moisture content cannot drop below the maximum soil water deficit minus the maximum evaporation depth; without any crop transpiration in play, only a certain amount of water can be removed from the soil through evaporative processes alone. Grass in wet climates does grow and remove moisture from the soil prior to the start of the irrigation season, however. In those cases, the stored moisture level can drop beyond the maximum evaporation depth, theoretically to 0.

Greenhouses and mushroom barns have no stored soil moisture content.

2. *In-Season Precipitation*

During the growing season, the amount of precipitation considered effective (EP) depends on the overall wetness of the modelling area's climate (see *Wet/Dry Climate Assessment*). In dry climates, the first 5 mm of precipitation is ignored, and the EP is calculated as 75% of remainder:

$$EP = (Precip - 5) \text{ x } 0.75$$

In wet climates, the first 5 mm is included in the EP. The EP is 75% of the actual precipitation:

$$EP = Precip \times 0.75$$

Greenhouses and mushroom barns automatically have an EP value of 0.

3.   *Crop Cover Coefficient (K_c)*

As the crops grow, the amount of water they lose due to transpiration changes. Each crop has a pair of polynomial equations that provide the crop coefficient for any day during the crop's growing season. It was found that two curves, one for modelling time periods up to the present and one for extending the modelling into the future, provided a better sequence of crop coefficients than using a single curve for all years (currently 1961 to 2100). The application automatically selects the current or future curve as modelling moves across the c*rop Curve Changeover Year*.

For alfalfa crops, there are different sets of equations corresponding to different cuttings throughout the growing season.

4.   *Crop Evapotranspiration (ET_c)*

The evapotranspiration for each crop is calculated as the general ET_o multiplied by the crop coefficient (K_c):

$$ET_c = ET_o \times K_c$$

5.   *Climate Moisture Deficit (CMD)*

During the growing season, the daily Climate Moisture Deficit (CMD) is calculated as the crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) less the Effective Precipitation (EP):

$$CMD = ET_c - EP$$

During each crop's growing season, a stored moisture reservoir methodology is used that is similar to the soil moisture content calculation in the pre-season. On a daily basis, the stored moisture level is used towards satisfying the climate moisture deficit to produce an *adjusted Climate Moisture Deficit* (CMD_a):

$$CMD_a = CMD - storedMoisture$$

If the storedMoisture level exceeds the day's CMD, then the CMD_a is 0 and the stored moisture level is reduced by the CMD amount. If the CMD is greater than the stored moisture, then all of the stored moisture is used (storedMoisture is set to 0) and the adjusted CMD creates an irrigation requirement.

The upper limit for the storedMoisture level during the growing season is the maximum soil water deficit (MSWD) setting.

6. Crop Water Requirement (CWR)

The Crop Water Requirement is calculated as the adjusted Climate Moisture Deficit (CMD_a) multiplied by the soil water factor (swFactor) and any stress factor (used primarily for grass crops):

$$CWR = CMD_a \text{ x swFactor x stressFactor}$$

7. Irrigation Requirement (IR)

The Irrigation Requirement is the Crop Water Requirement (CWR) after taking into account the irrigation efficiency (I_e) and, for drip systems, the drip factor (D_f):

$$IR = CWR \text{ x } \frac{D_f}{I_e}$$

For irrigation systems other than drip, the drip factor is 1.

8. Irrigation Water Demand (IWDperc and IWD)

The portion of the Irrigation Water Demand lost to deep percolation is the Irrigation Requirement (IR) multiplied by the percolation factor (soilPercFactor):

$$IWD_{perc} = IR \text{ x soilPercFactor}$$

The final Irrigation Water Demand (IWD) is then the Irrigation Requirement (IR) plus the loss to percolation (IWD_{perc}):

$$IWD = IR + IWD_{perc}$$

9. Frost Protection

For some crops (e.g. cranberries), an application of water is often used under certain climatic conditions to provide protection against frost damage. For cranberries, the rule is: when the temperature drops to 0 ^{o}C or below between March 16 and May 20 or between October 1 and November 15, a frost event will be calculated. The calculated value is an application of 2.5 mm per hour for 10 hours. In addition, 60% of the water is recirculated and reused, accounting for evaporation and seepage losses.

This amounts to a modelled water demand of 10 mm over the cranberry crop's area for each day that a frost event occurs between the specified dates.

10. Annual Soil Moisture Deficit

Prior to each crop's growing season, the Model calculates the soil's moisture content by starting it at full (maximum soil water deficit level) on January 1, and adjusting it daily according to

precipitation and evaporation. During the growing season, simple evaporation is replaced by the crop's evapotranspiration as it progresses through its growth stages. At the completion of each crop's growing season, an annual soil moisture deficit (SMD) is calculated as the difference between the soil moisture content at that point and the maximum soil water deficit (MSWD):

$$SMD = MSWD - storedMoisture$$

In dry/cold climates, this amount represents water that the farmer would add to the soil in order to prevent it from freezing. Wet climates are assumed to have sufficient precipitation and warm enough temperatures to avoid the risk of freezing without this extra application of water; the SMD demand is therefore recorded only for dry areas.

There is no fixed date associated with irrigation to compensate for the annual soil moisture deficit. The farmer may choose to do it any time after the end of the growing season and before the freeze up. In the Model's summary reports, the water demand associated with the annual soil moisture deficit shows as occurring at time 0 (week 0, month 0, etc.) simply to differentiate it from other demands that do have a date of occurrence during the crop's growing season.

Greenhouses and mushroom barns do not have an annual soil moisture deficit.

11.   *Flood Harvesting*

Cranberry crops are generally harvested using flood techniques. The Model calculates the flood harvesting demand as 250 mm of depth for 10% of the cranberry farmed area. For modelling purposes, it is assumed that 250 mm of water gets applied to the total cranberry crop area, 10% at a time. The water is reused for subsequent portions, but by the time the entire crop is harvested, all of the water is assumed to have been used and either depleted through losses or released from the farm.

The water demand is therefore calculated as a fixed 25 mm over the entire cranberry crop area. The harvesting generally takes place between mid-October and mid-November where the Model treats it as occurring on the fixed date of November 16.