

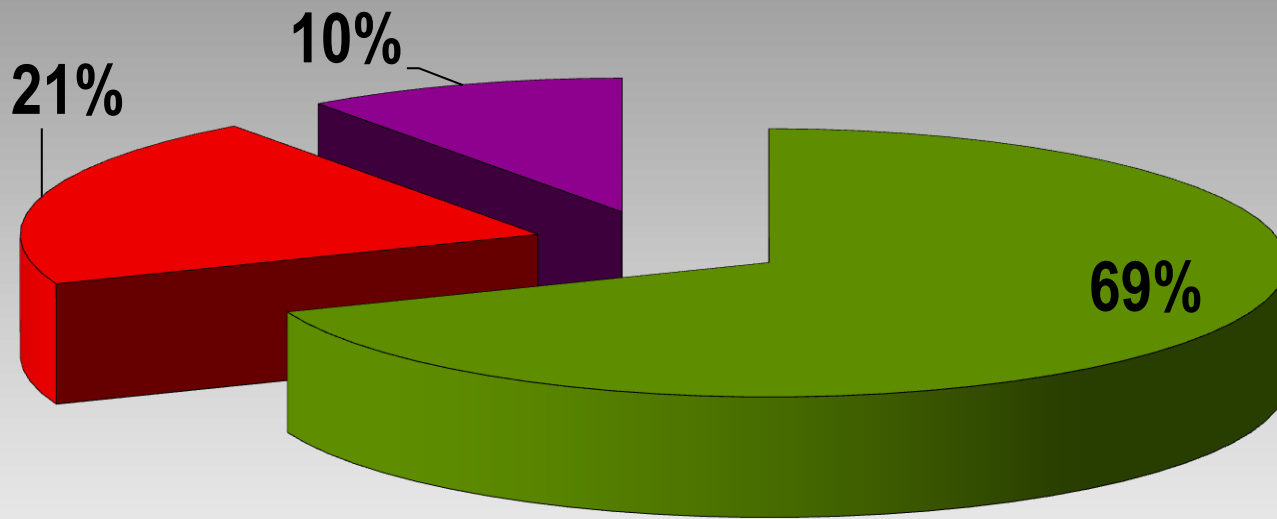
IRRIGATION SCHEDULING



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Water consumption



■ Agriculture

■ Industry

■ Domestic use



**Irrigation scheduling
and management**



Climate factors



Water budget

Outputs

Evapotranspiration

Deep percolation

Runoff

Inputs

Precipitation

Capillary rise

Irrigation

EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

water loss from bare soil (evaporation)

water loss from living-plant surfaces (transpiration)

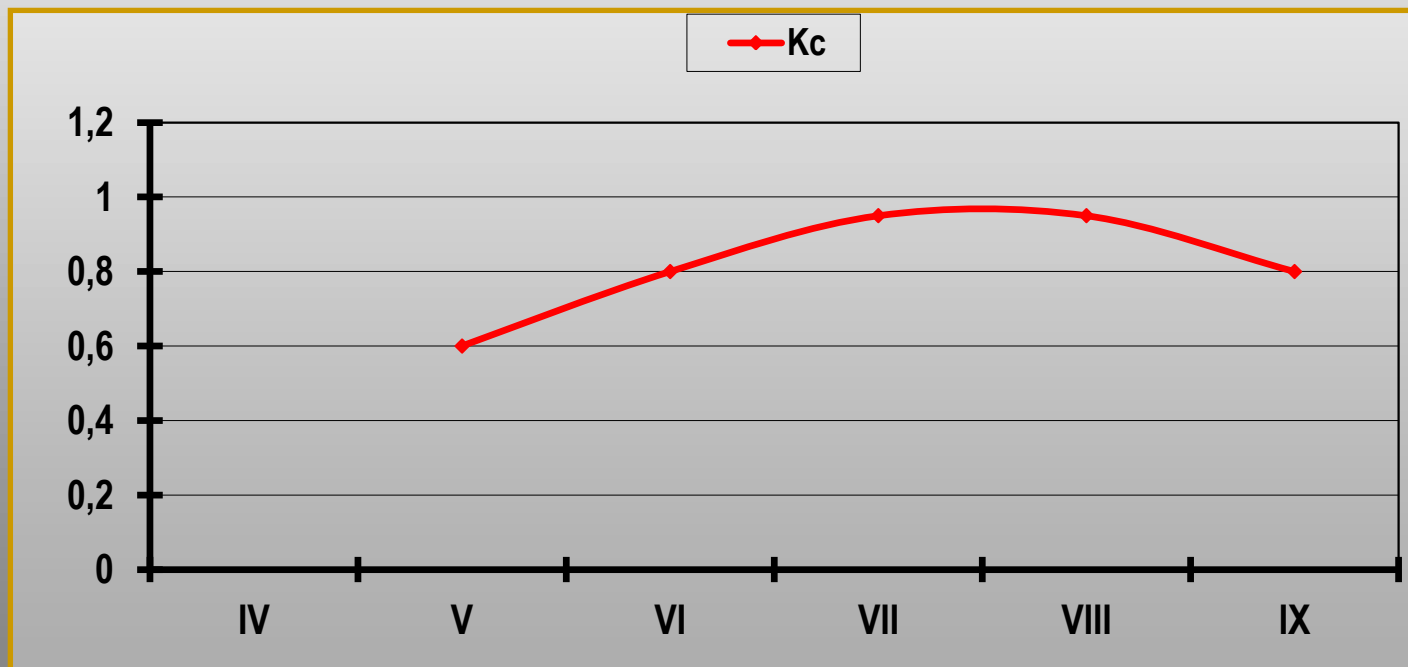
REFERENCE EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (ET_0)



CROP EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (ET_c)

K_c (crop) factor

$$ET_c = ET_o \times k_c$$



Soil based criteria



Methods of measurement of soil water status:

- ▶ **Soil water potential** – a measure of the energy status of the soil water. It tells how tightly the water is being held by the soil. It is measured in units of pressure (Pa, bars)
- ▶ **Soil water content** (volumetric) - the quantity of water present in a given volume of soil

Measurement of soil water potential

Tensiometers

A tensiometer measures the soil water tension that can be related to the soil water content for specific soils.



Advantages:

- Cheap and simple use.
- Results are not affected by salinity.
- Continuous reading possible when using pressure transducer.

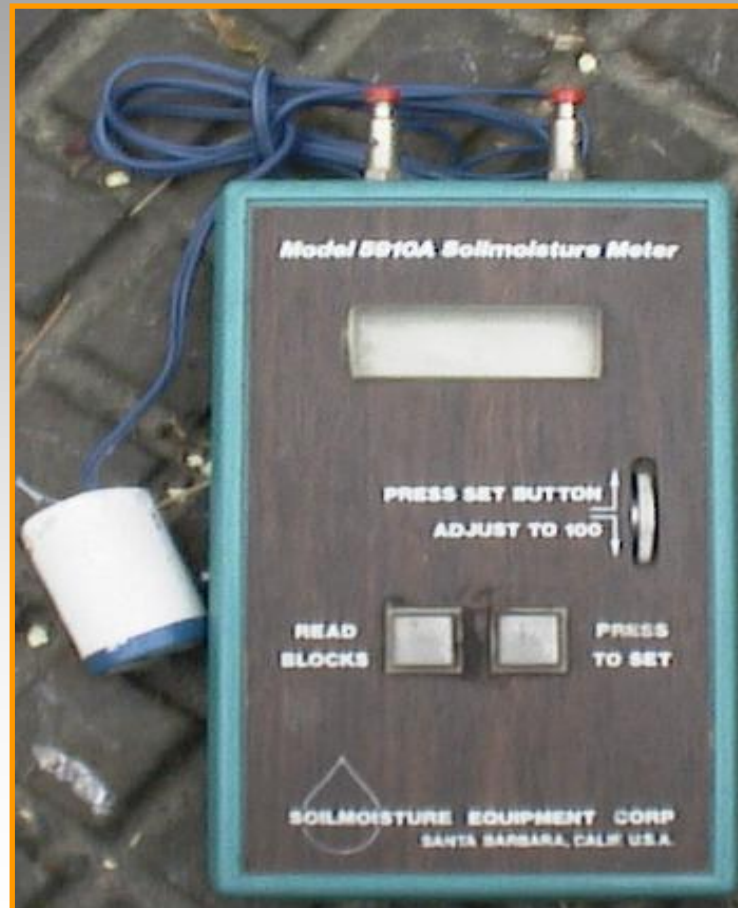


Disadvantages:

- Limited soil suction range (<100 kPa).
- Slow response time.
- Additional knowledge is needed to interpret obtained results – calibration of the specific soil type must be done to establish the relationship between soil water content and soil water tension.
- Sampling small volume - using many tensiometers in order to monitor the all field.
- After installation – frequent care is needed (refilling).

Gypsum blocks

They measure the electrical resistance to current flow between electrodes embedded in a material resembling fine sand surrounded by a synthetic porous material. High resistance readings mean lower block water content and therefore higher soil water tension.





Advantages:

- Simple and inexpensive.
- Can be used to control irrigation systems (suited for irrigation where only "full" and "refill" points are required).
- Higher (compared to tensiometer) measuring range (~ 200 kPa).

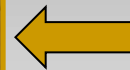
Disadvantages:

- Additional knowledge is needed to interpret results – relationship between soil water content and soil water tension.
- Low accuracy (limited use in research).
- Sensitive to salinity.
- Slow reaction time.



Measurement of soil water content

Gravimetric method



Advantages:

- Reference method.



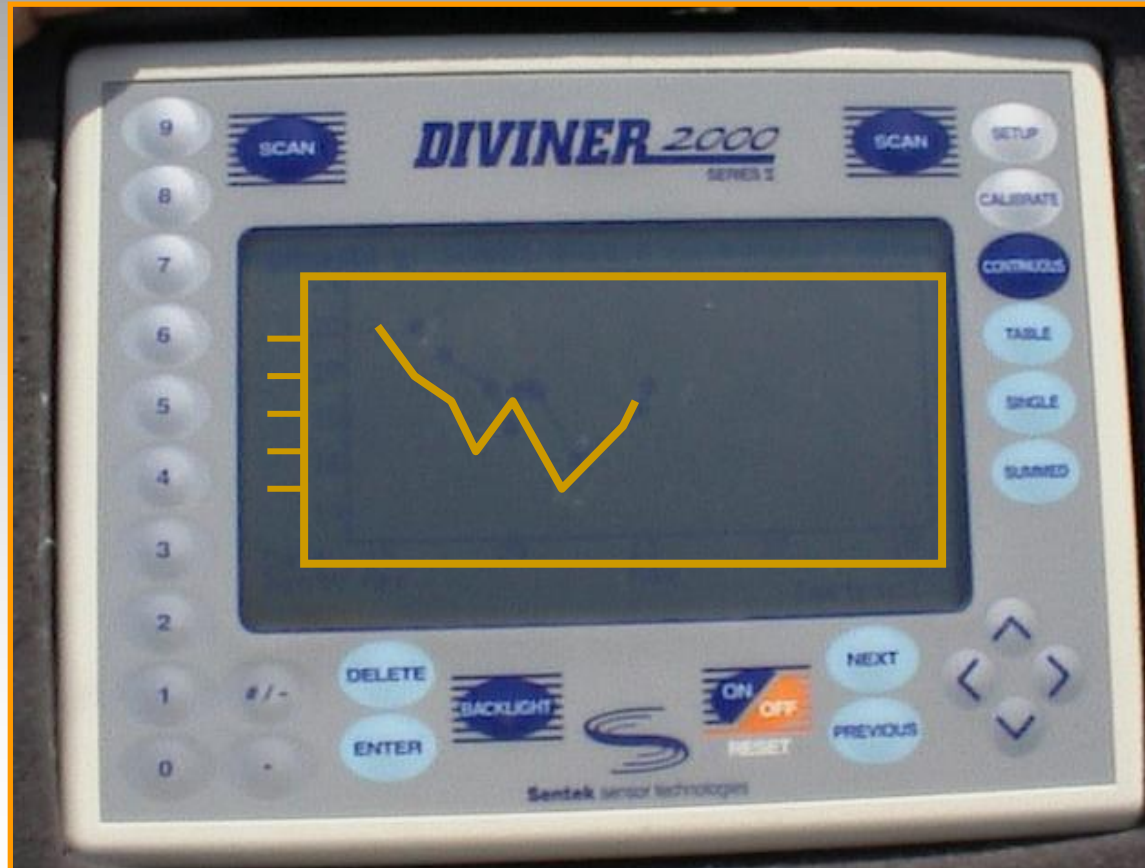
Disadvantages:

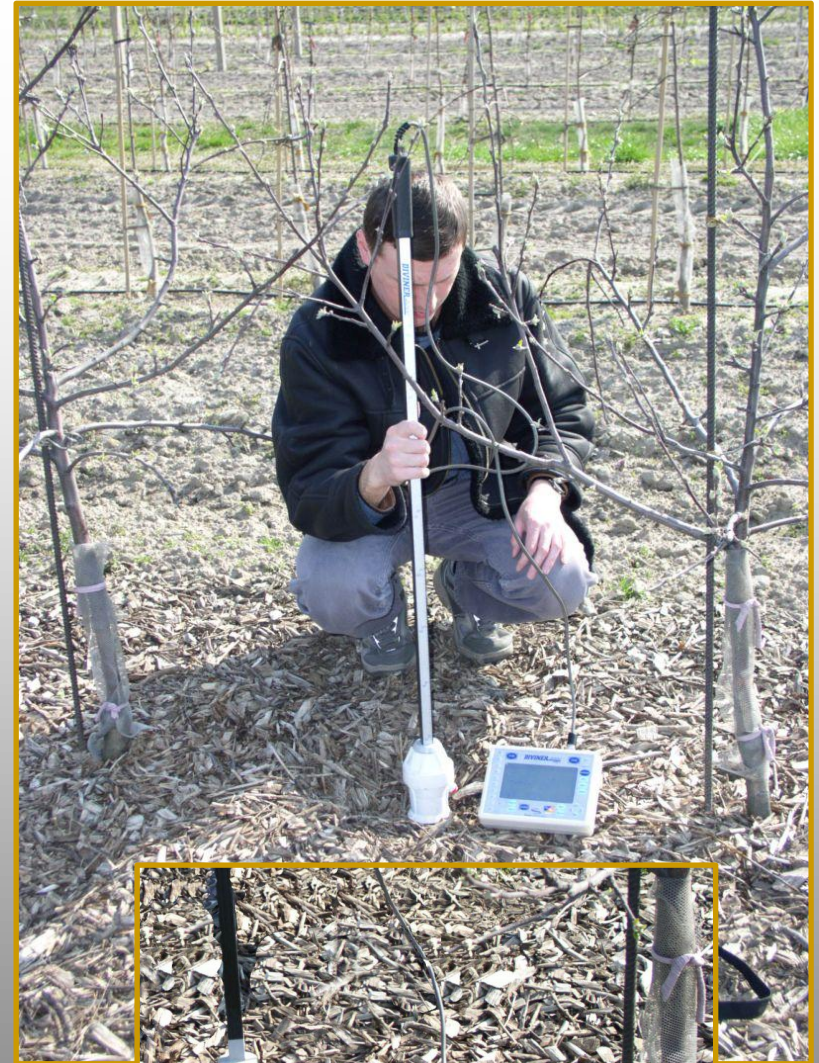
- Time-consuming.
- Destructive measurements.
- Access to laboratory equipment (a balance, an oven).

Frequency Domain Reflectometry (capacitance probes)

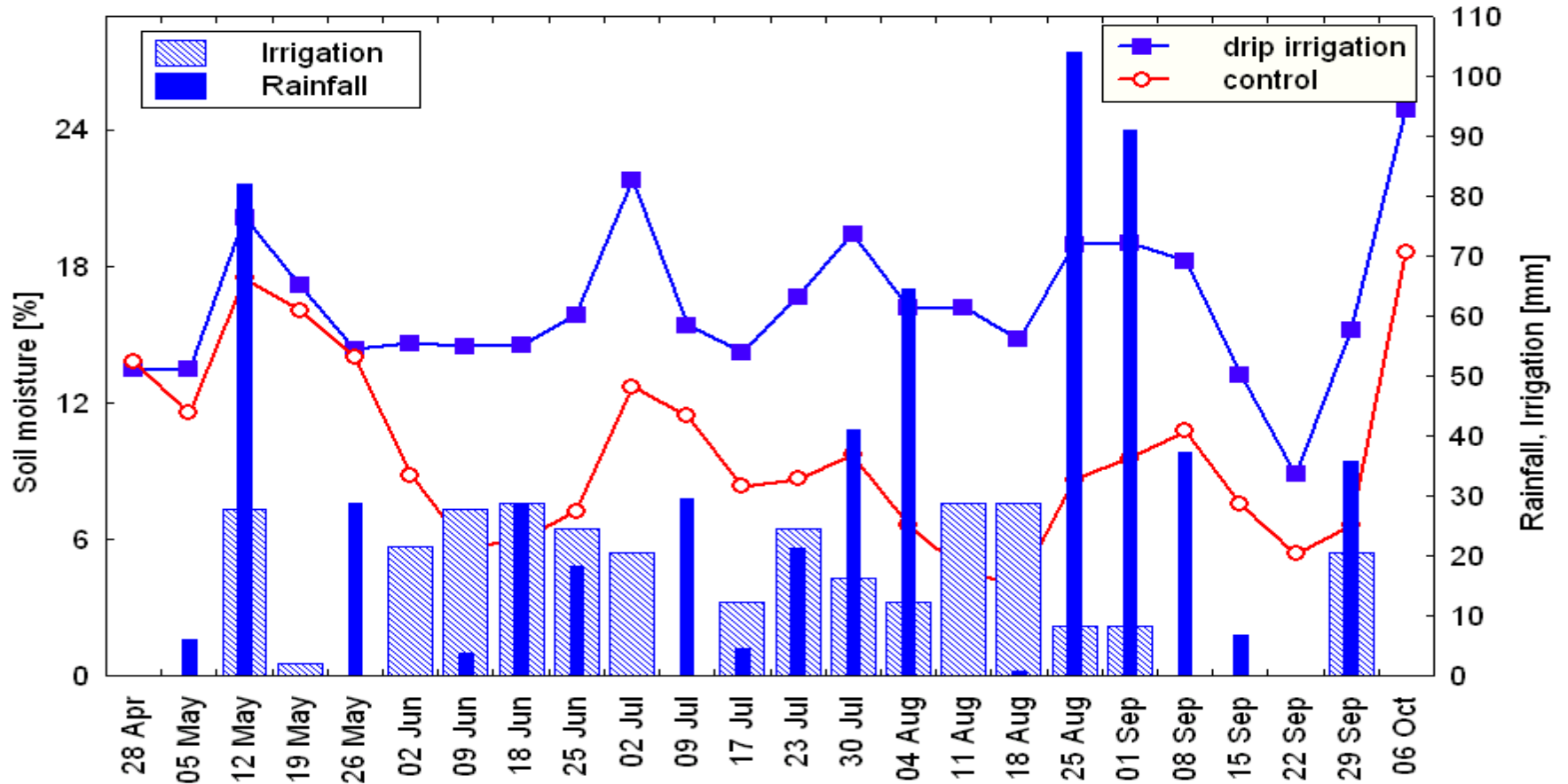
Time Domain Reflectometry

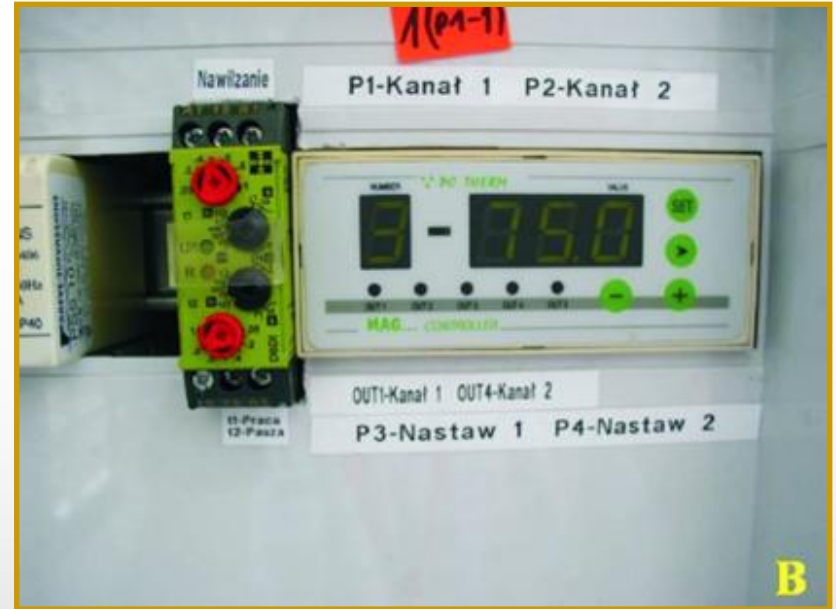
These sensors detect changes in soil dielectric properties linked to variations in soil water content.





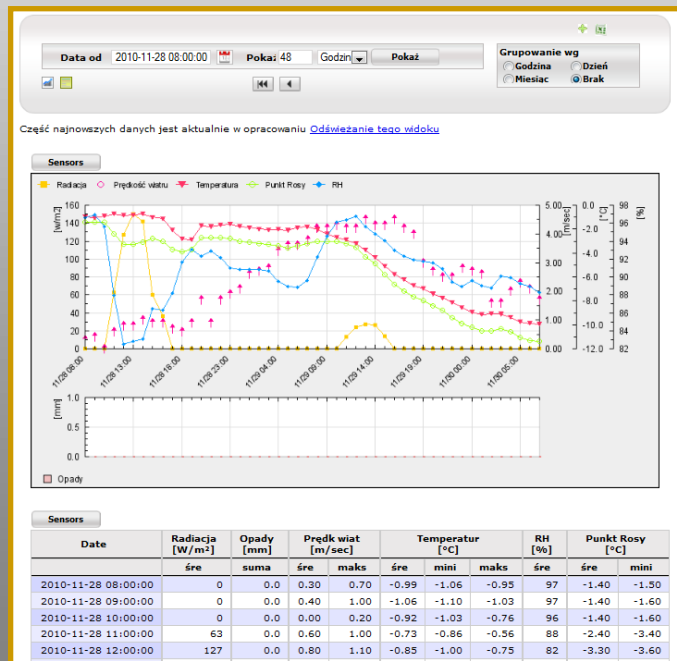
Depth 10 cm





Irrigation control and management system:

- A** – capacitance probe
- B** – controller and programming unit
- C** – irrigation valves



Advantages:

- High accuracy.
- Measurement in soil profile.
- Can be connected to loggers and/or irrigation controllers.
- Minimal soil disturbance.
- Multi-parametric probes.



Disadvantages:

- The sensing sphere of influence is relatively small.
- Careful installation is necessary to avoid air gaps to have good contact between the sensor (or tube) and soil.
- Sensitivity to changes in temperature.
- Needs soil-specific calibration.
- Expensive equipment.

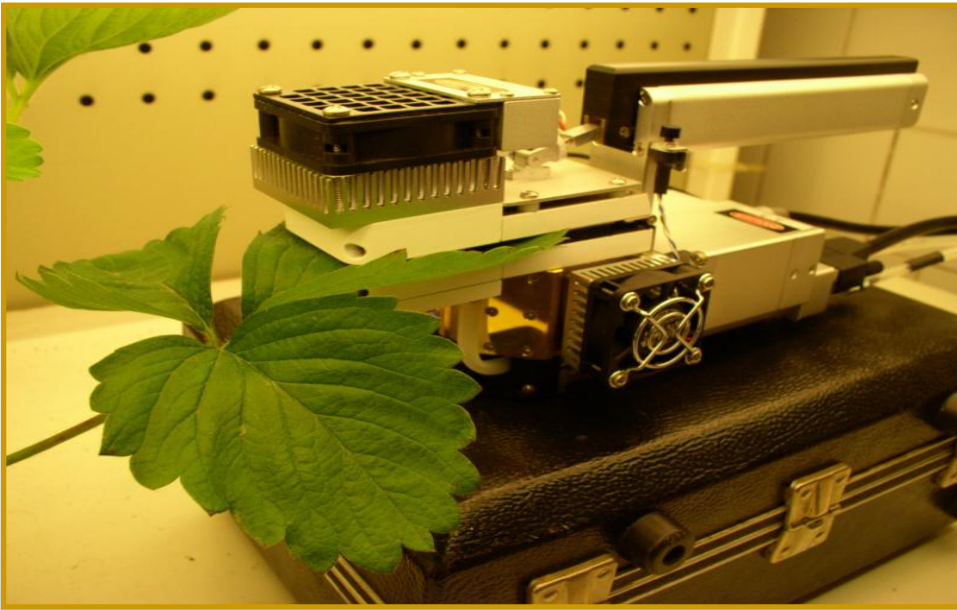
Plant based criteria



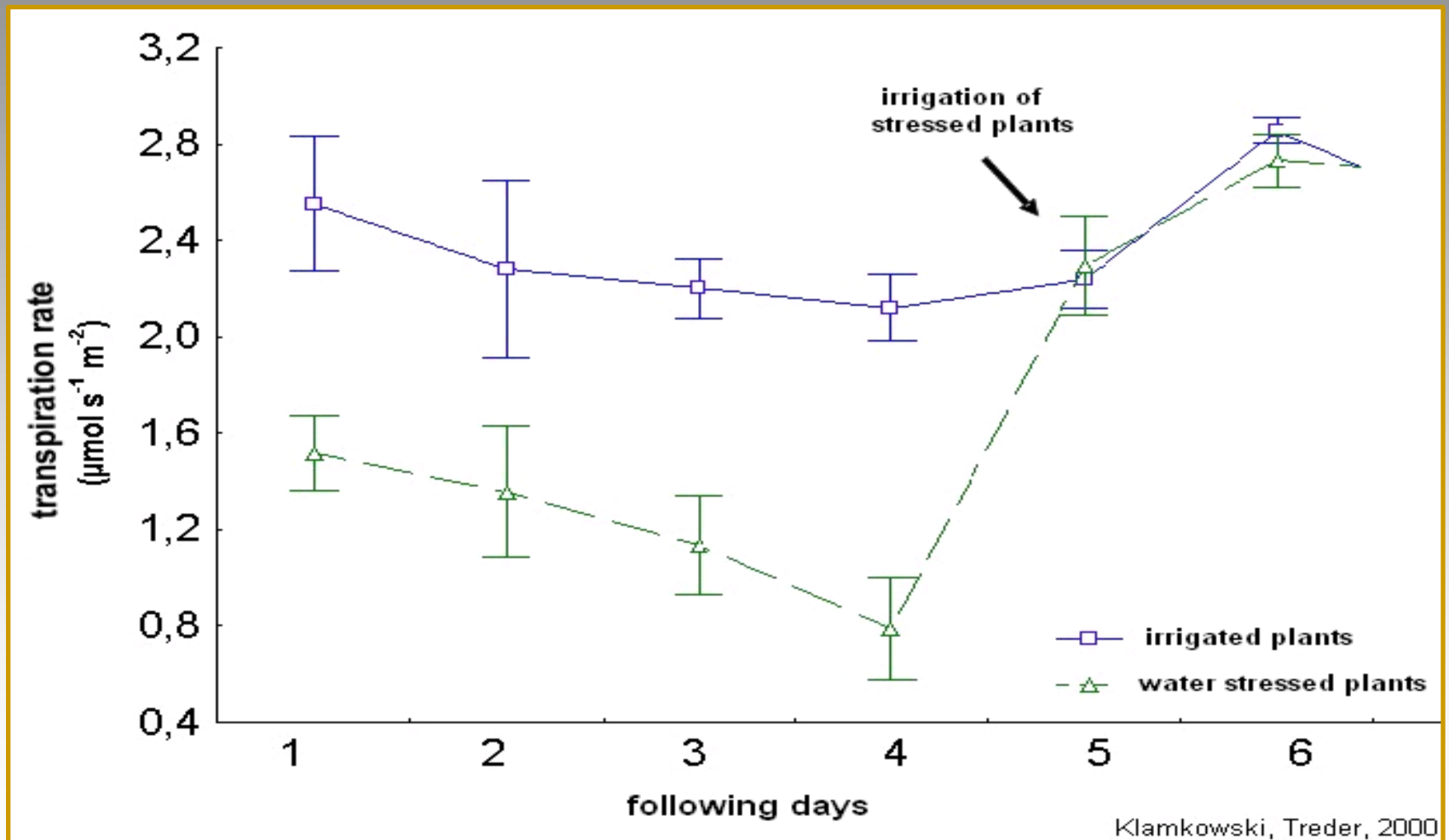
Many physiological parameters could be used as indicators of changes of plant water status:

- Plant water potential.
- Intensity of transpiration.
- Sap flow.
- Temperature of crop canopy.
- Changes in plant organ diameters.



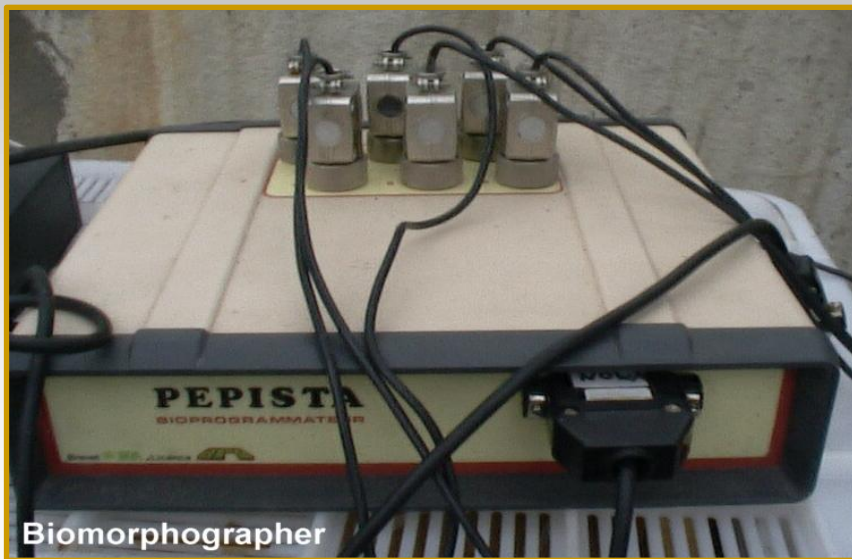


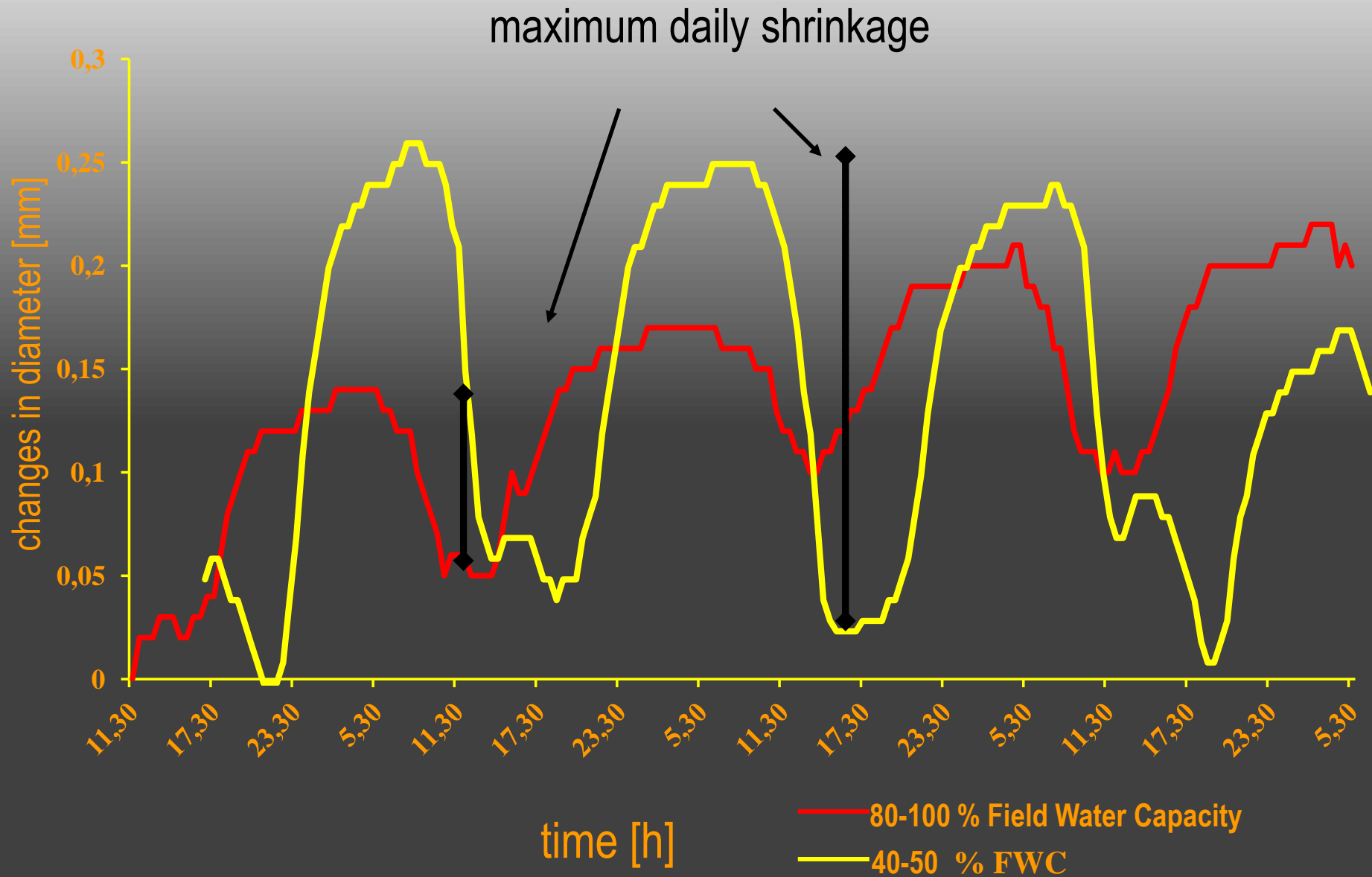
Changes in transpiration rate as affected by irrigation regime (apple trees)



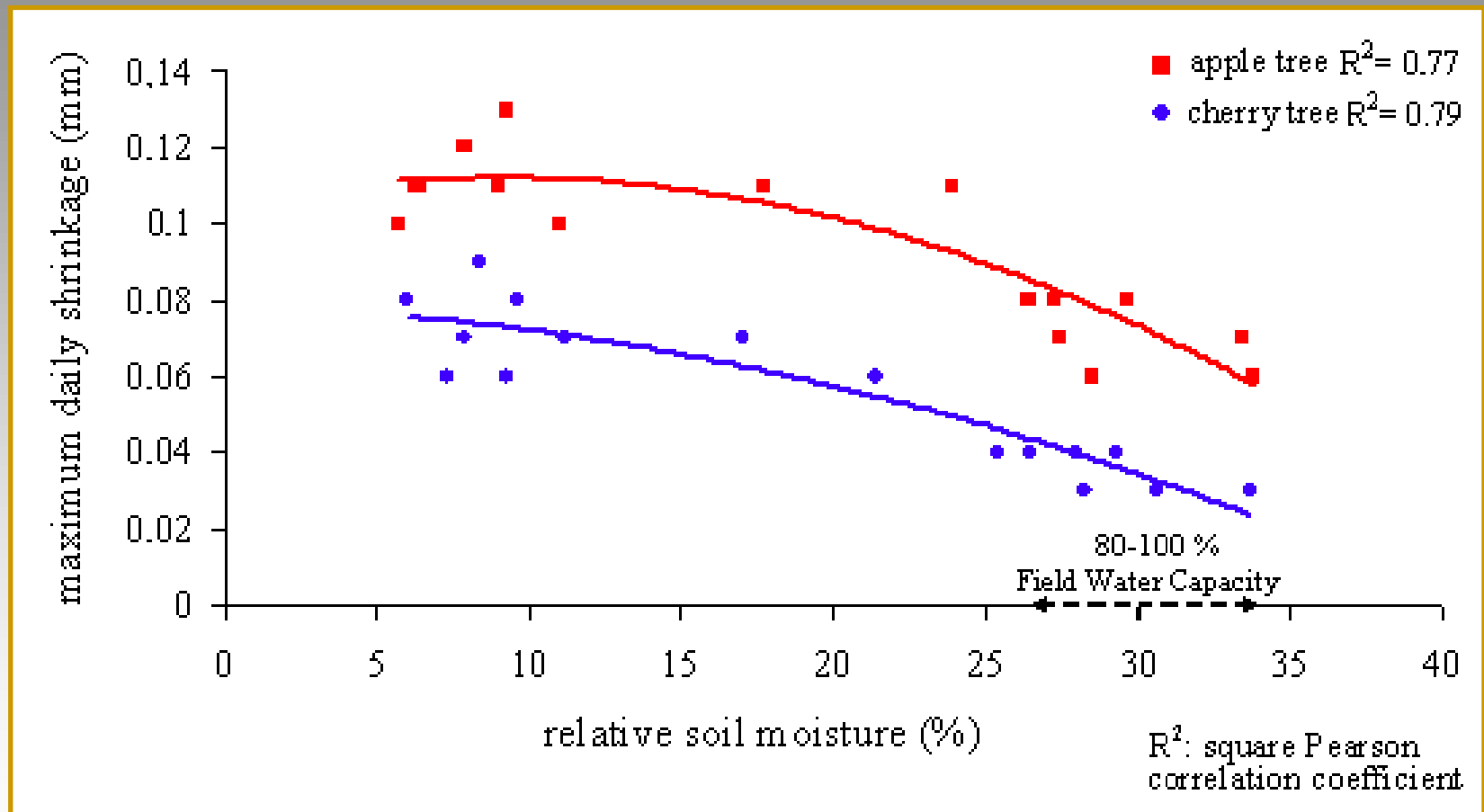
Changes in plant organ diameters

The size of plant organs such as stems, fruits and leaves can change rapidly, both through growth and as a result of changes in water content in response to environmental conditions.





Maximum daily shrinkage of cherry (A) and apple (B) tree stems





Combination of different methods enables the most precise assessment of plant water status

Thank you





The sustainable improvement of European berry production, quality and nutrition value in a changing environment: Strawberries, Currants, Blackberries and Raspberries.

Acronym: EUBerry

<http://www.euberry.univpm.it/>

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