

48. Bundessteinobstseminar  
11. - 14.12.2023



Steinobst bahnt sich einen  
Weg in die Zukunft!



## “Bewässerung im Steinobst bei zunehmender Wasserknappheit - Ressourcenschonende Strategien aus Spanien”

Dr. Joan Girona

**IRTA** – Programm zur effizienten Wassernutzung in der Landwirtschaft

joan.girona@irta.cat

Generalitat  
de Catalunya

**IRTA**

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## “Irrigation in stone fruit at increasing water scarcity - Resource-saving strategies from Spain”

Dr. Joan Girona

**IRTA** – Programme for the efficient use of water in agriculture

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Generalitat  
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## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

### Goals:

- **To produce the reasonable maximum (quantity and quality)**
- **Use as little water as possible to ensure viable production.**



## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

### Indispensable:

- **To know the patterns of water in the soil and the plant.**
- **Very precise irrigation management.**



## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

### Indispensable:

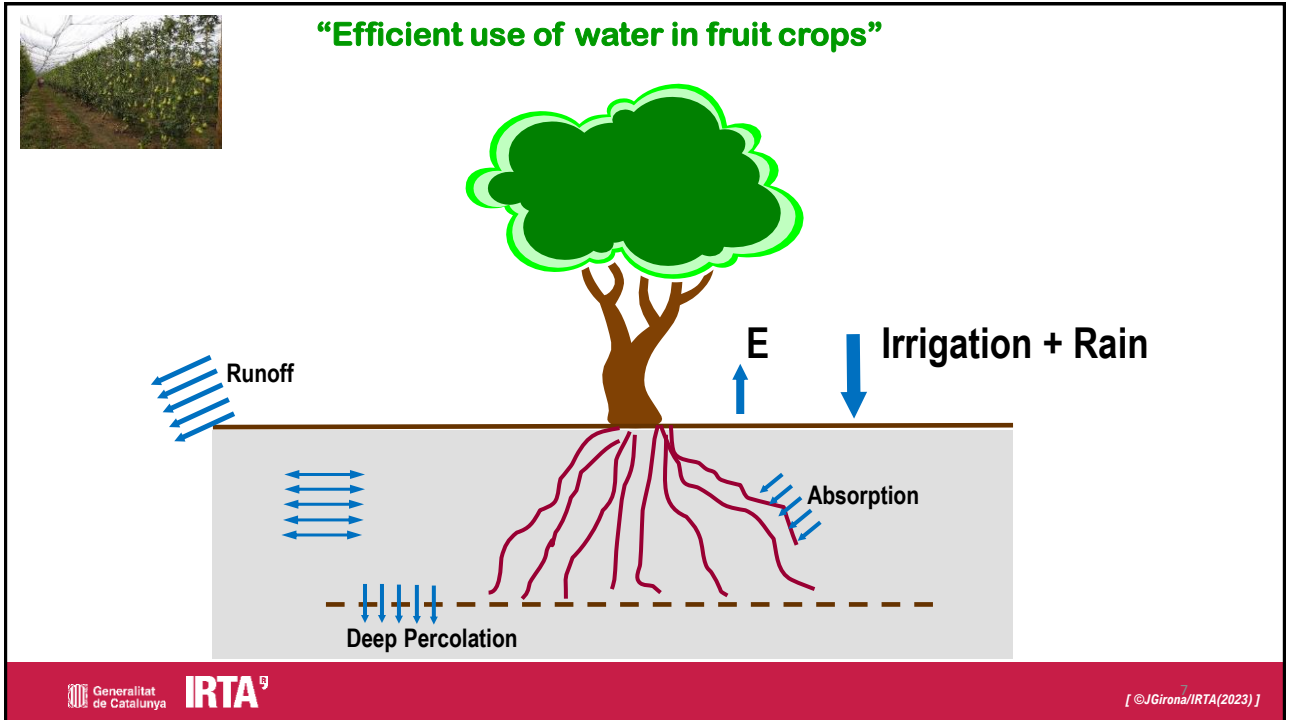
- To know the patterns of water in the soil and the plant.
- Very precise irrigation management.
  - System
  - Strategy



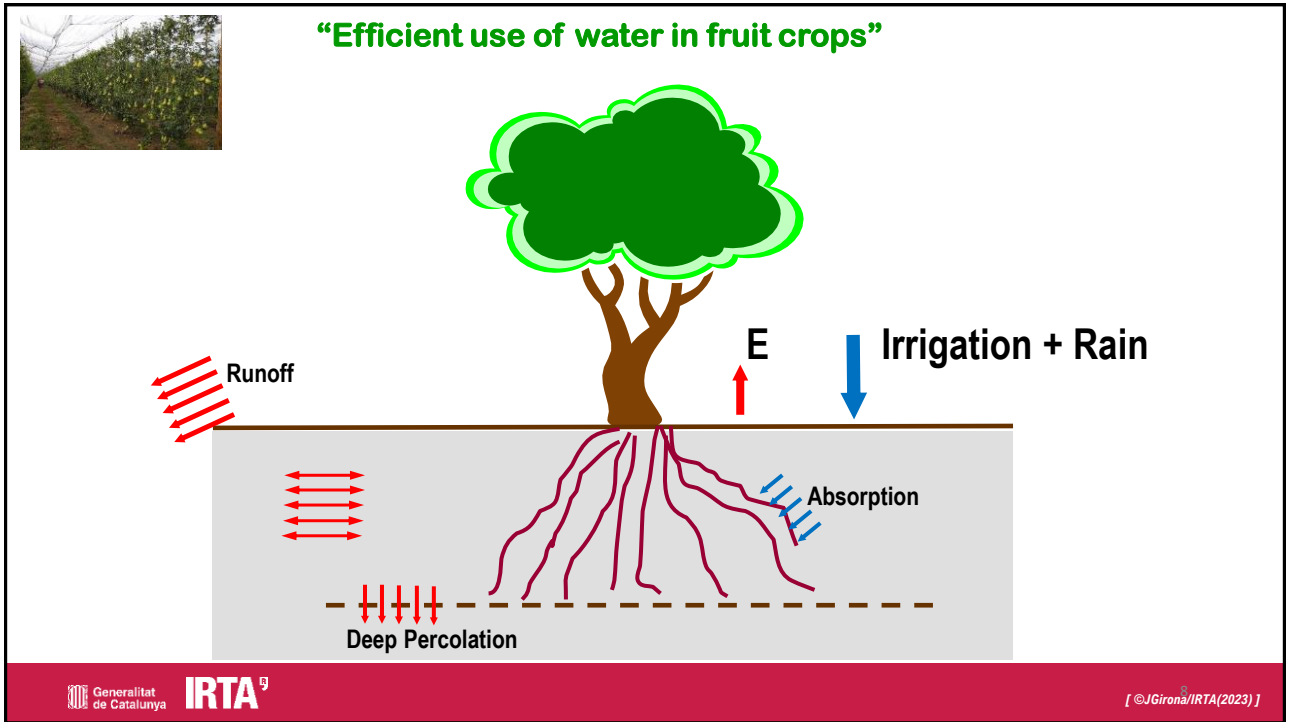
## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

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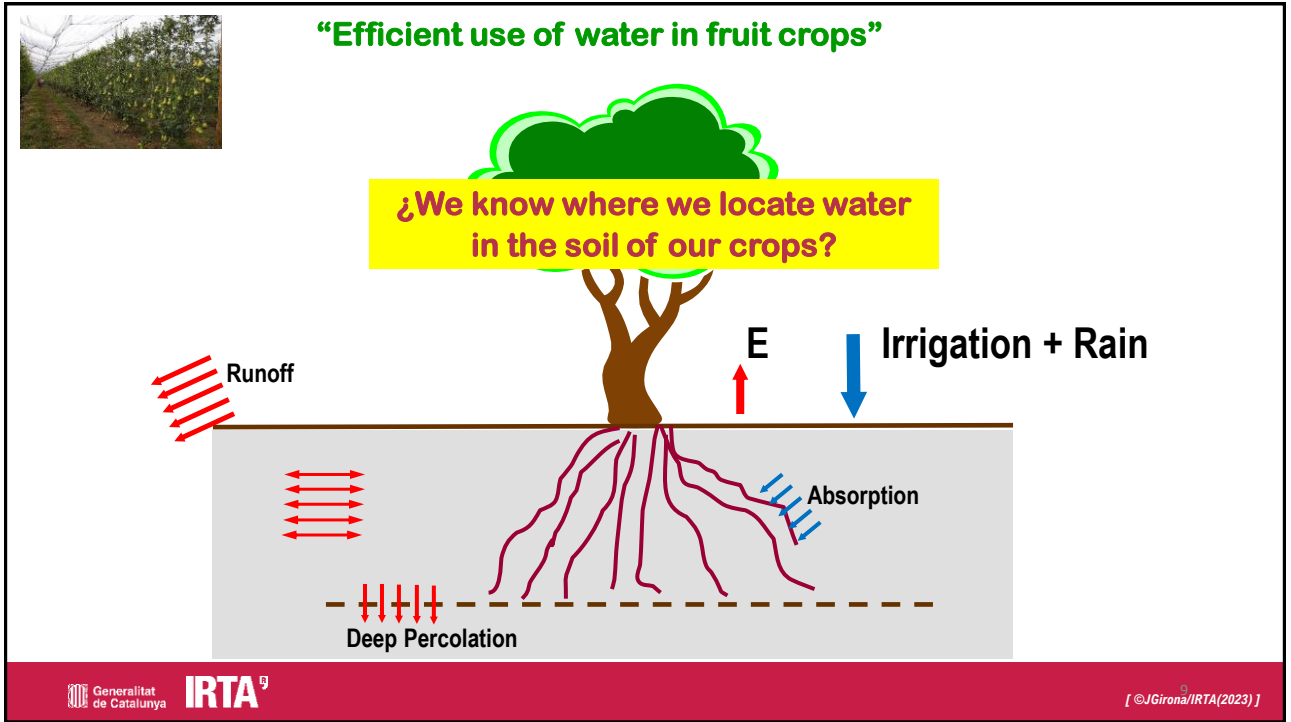
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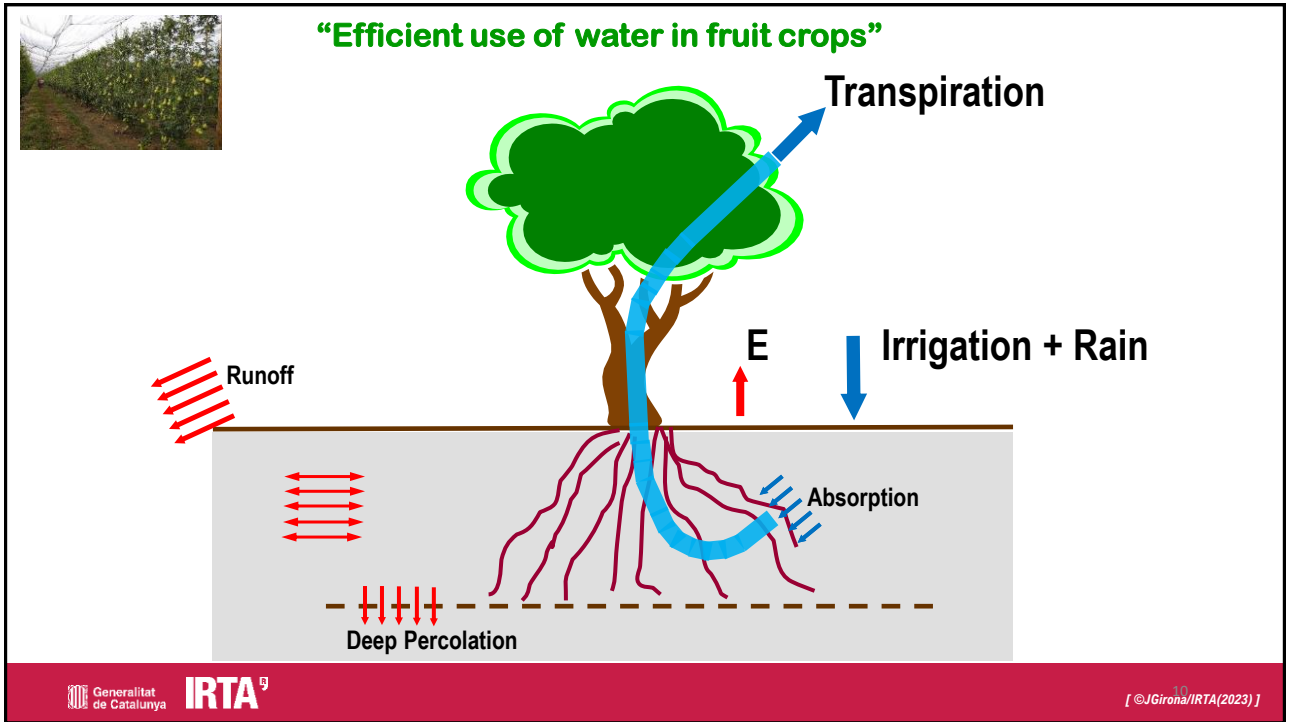
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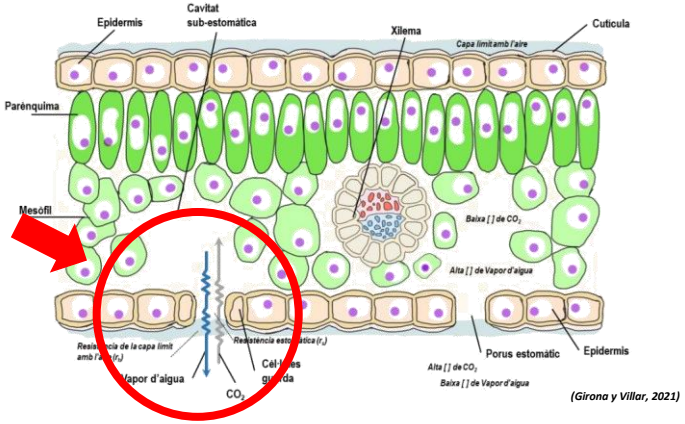
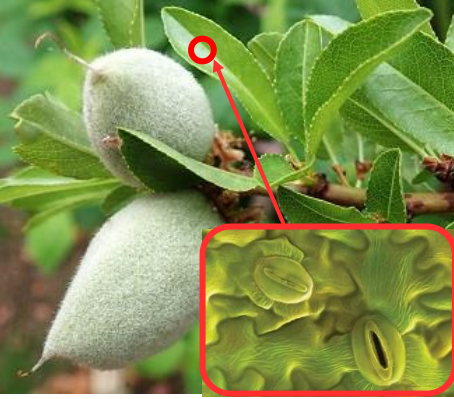


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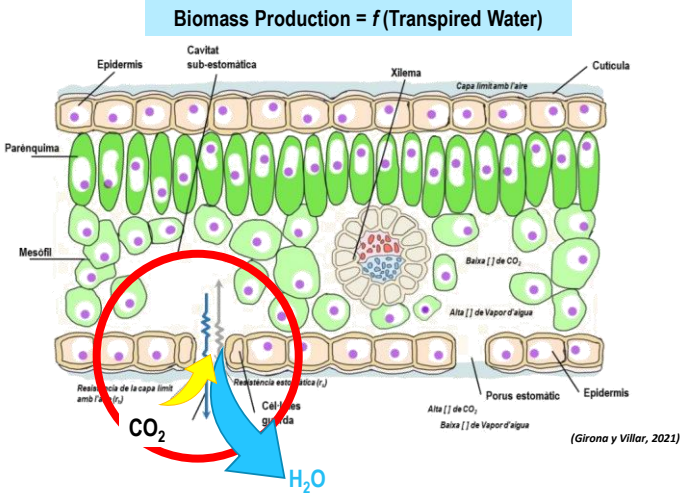
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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”



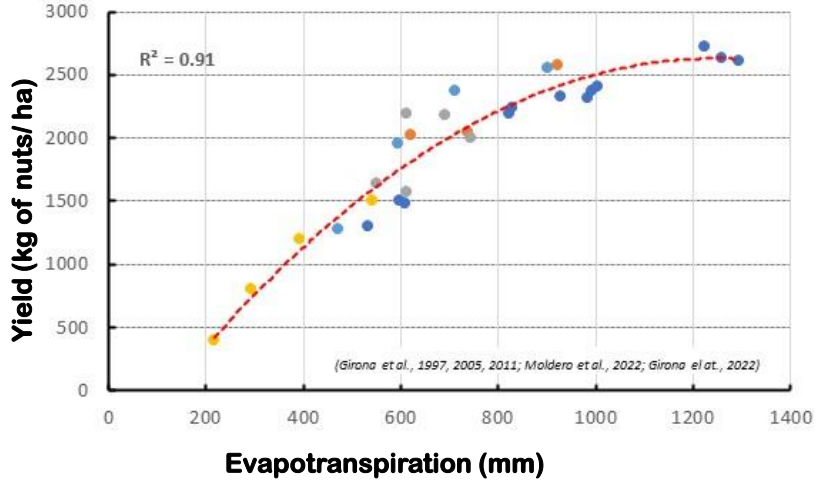
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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”



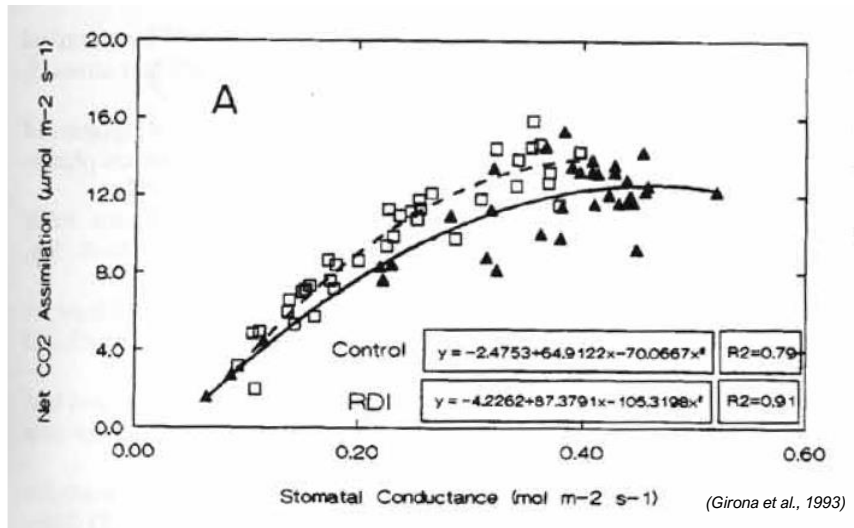
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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”



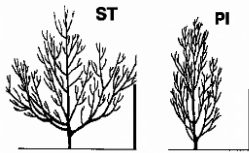
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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”



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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”



(Scorza, 2005)

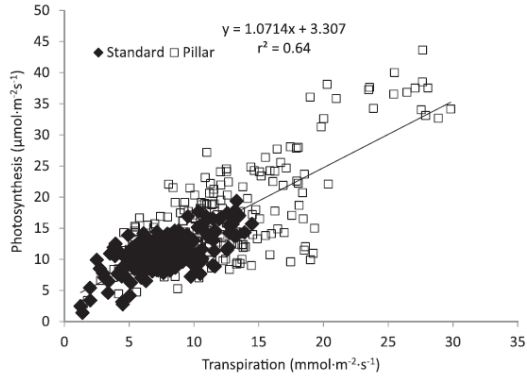
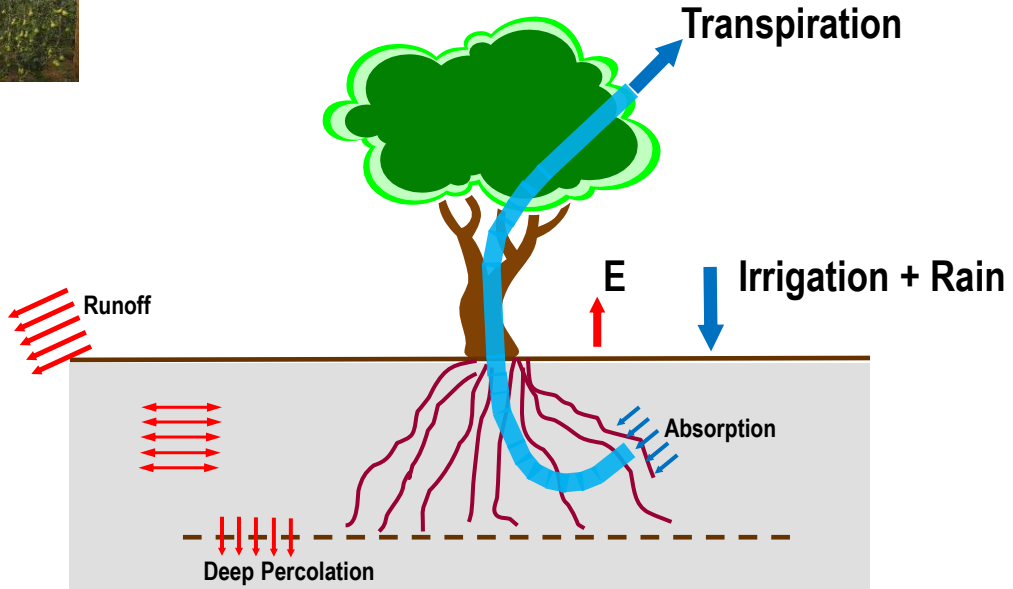


Fig. 1. Relationship between whole canopy photosynthesis and transpiration for 2 peach tree architectures in 2008–2010 at Kearneysville, WV.

(Glenn et al., 2015)

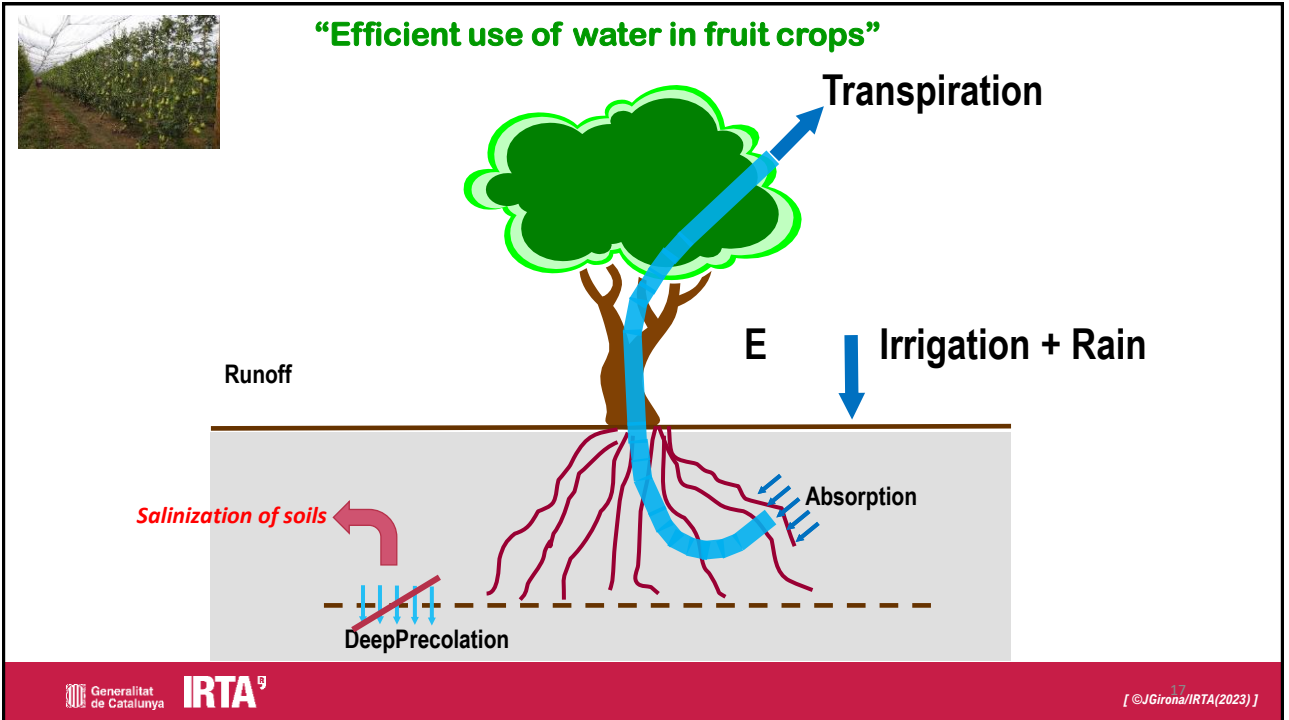
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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

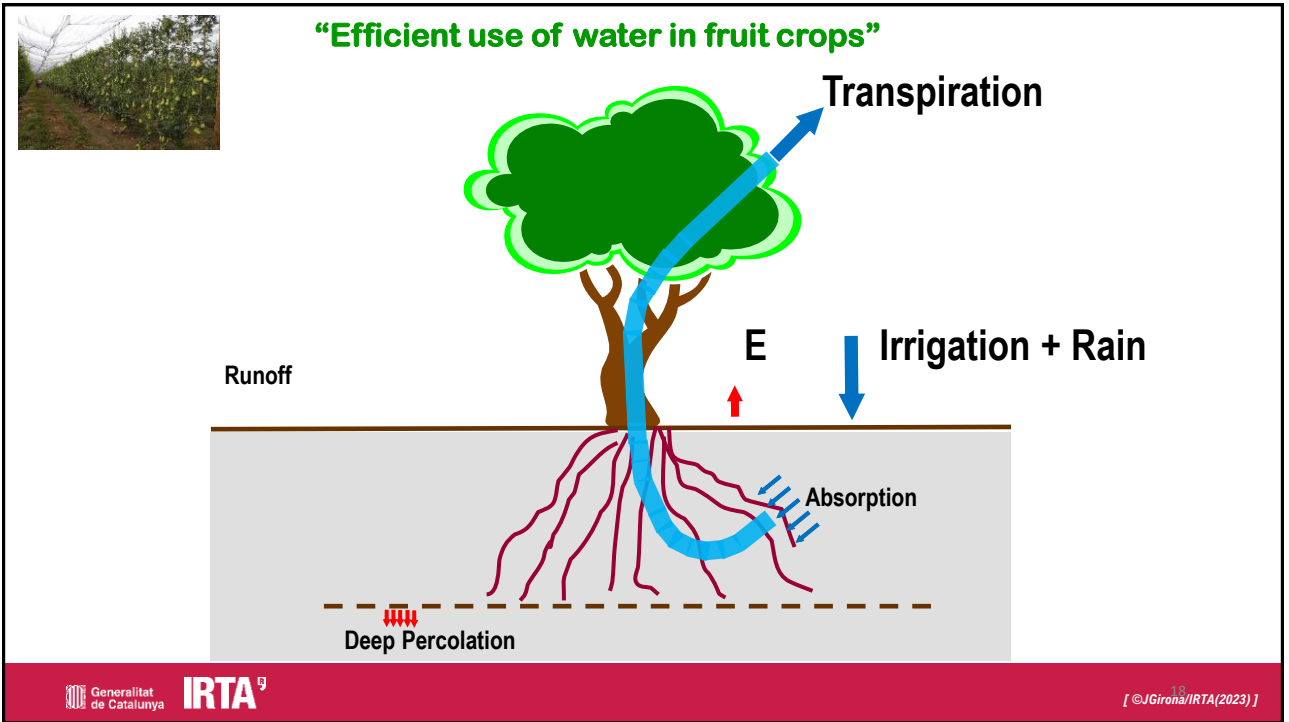


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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

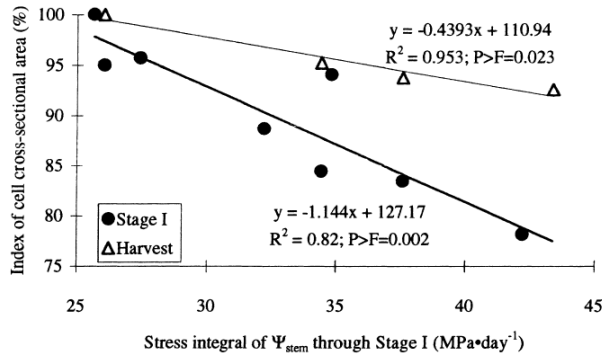
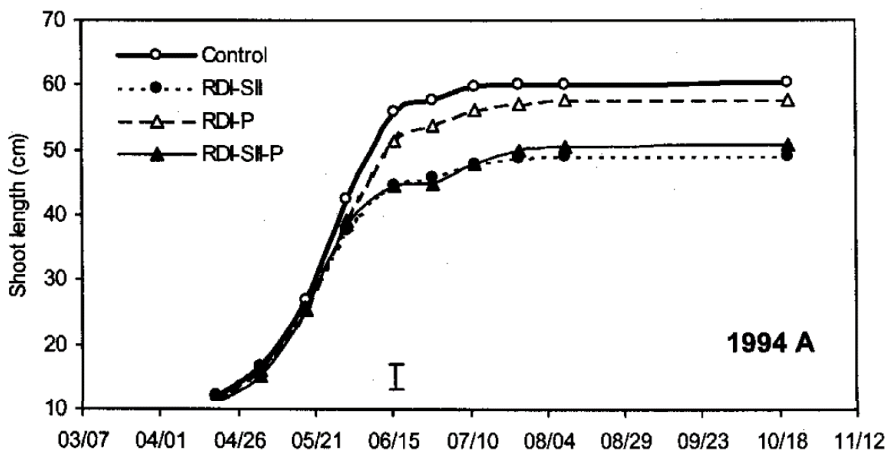


Fig. 5. Relationship between water stress integral during the deficit irrigation period ( $S\psi = \sum_{i=0}^{i=n} \overline{\psi}_{i,i+1} * n$ ) and index of cell cross-sectional area ( $100 \times \text{actual value/highest value}$ ). Solid circles represent the end of Stage I, open triangles represent harvest. Each point represents the average values of both parameters for one tree.

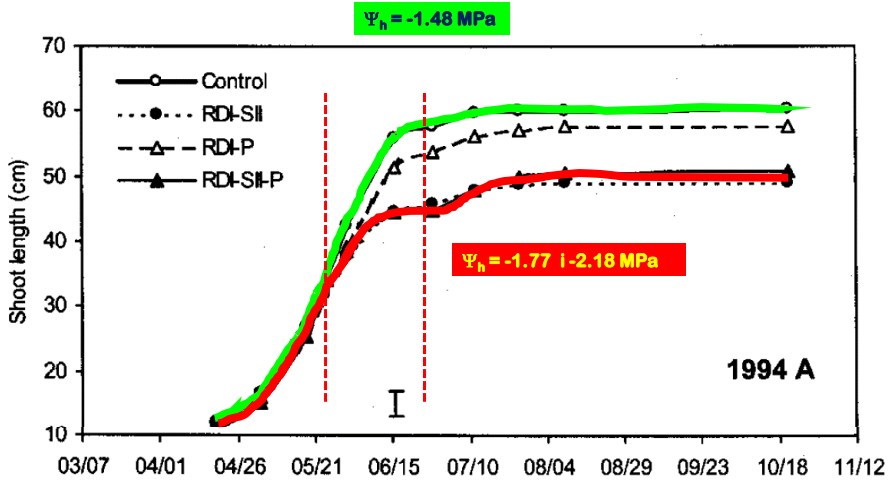
(Marsal et al., 2000)

### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”



(Girona et al., 2003)

### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”



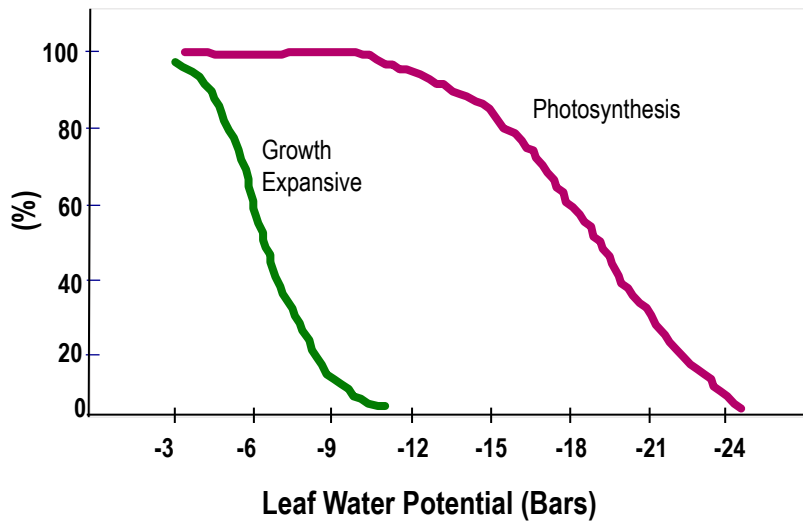
(Girona et al., 2003)

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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

#### PLANT SENSITIVITY TO WATER DEFICIT

(Hsiao, 1981)



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## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

### Indispensable:

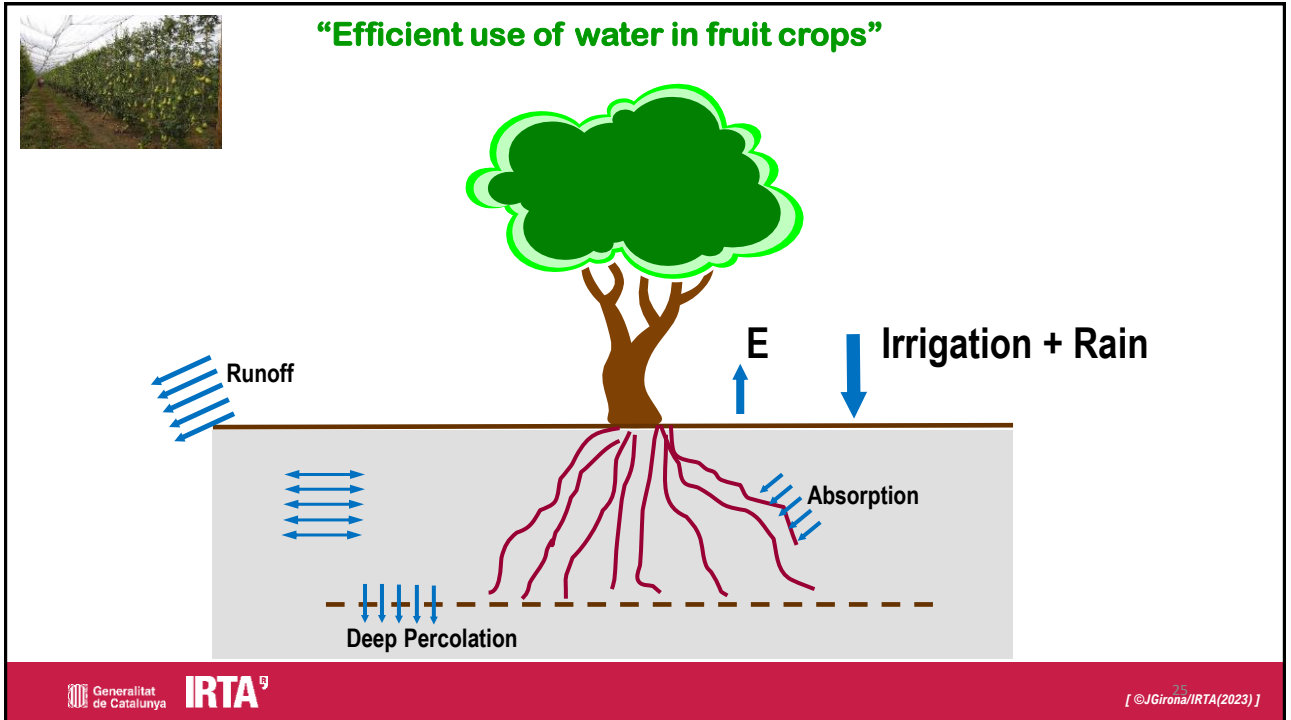
- To know the patterns of water in the soil and the plant.
- **Very precise irrigation management.**
  - System
  - Strategy



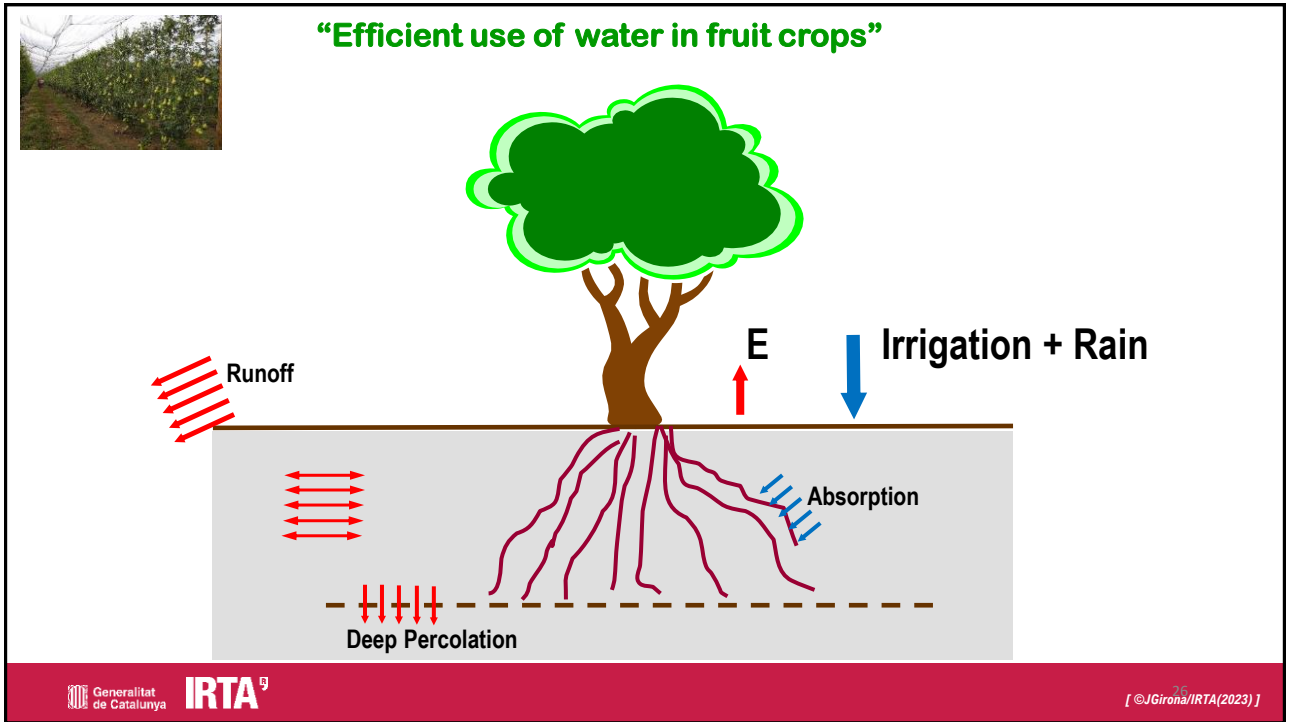
## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

### Indispensable:

- To know the patterns of water in the soil and the plant.
- **Very precise irrigation management.**
  - **System**
  - Strategy



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## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

### Indispensable:

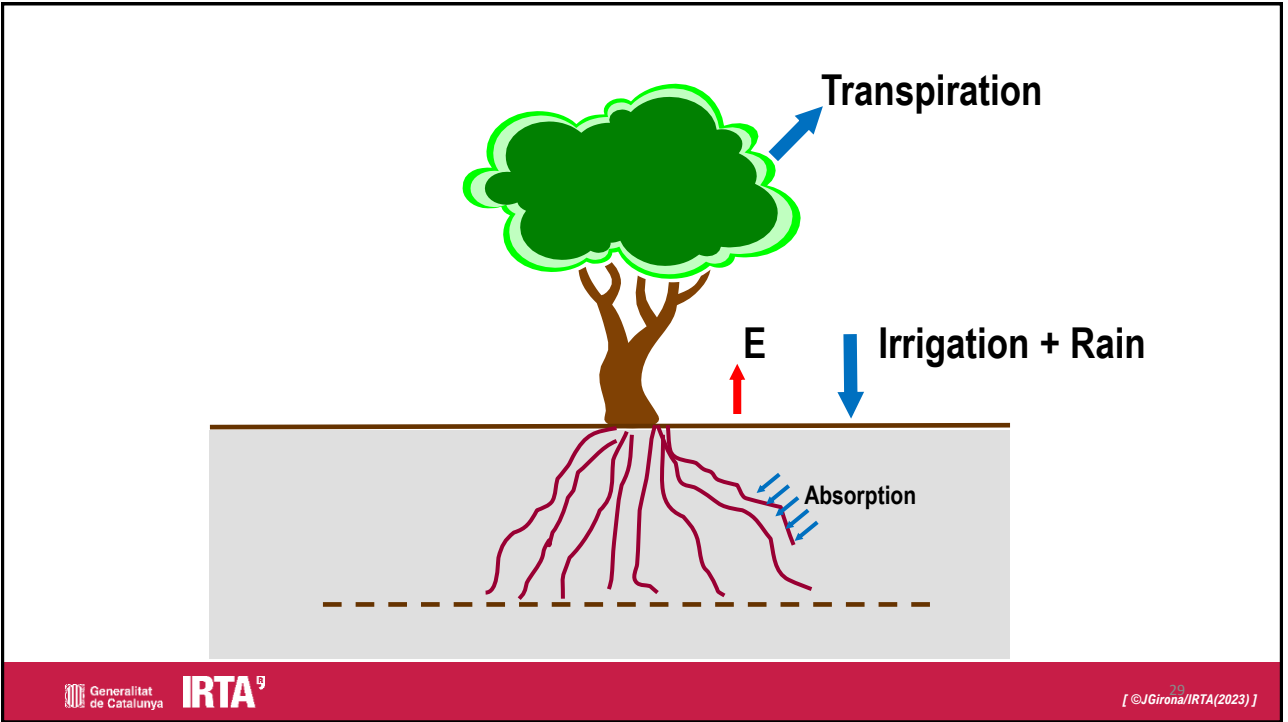
- To know the patterns of water in the soil and the plant.
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  - System
  - **Strategy**



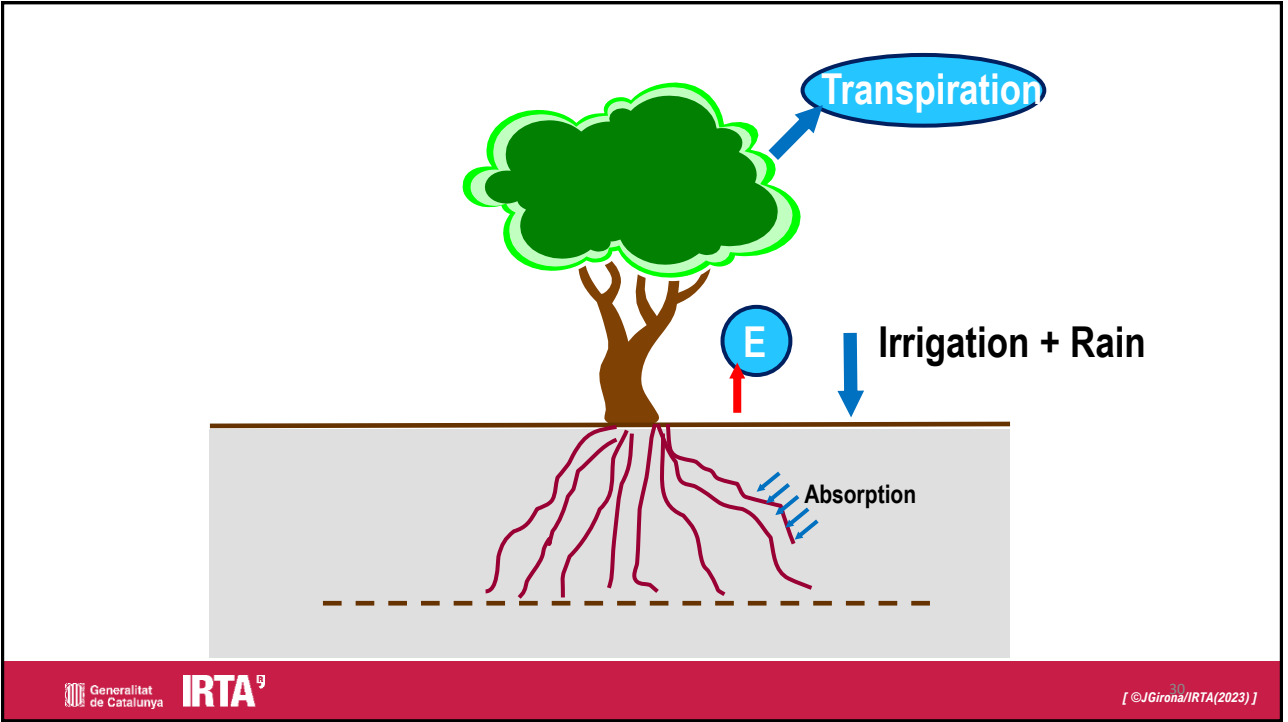
## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

### Indispensable:

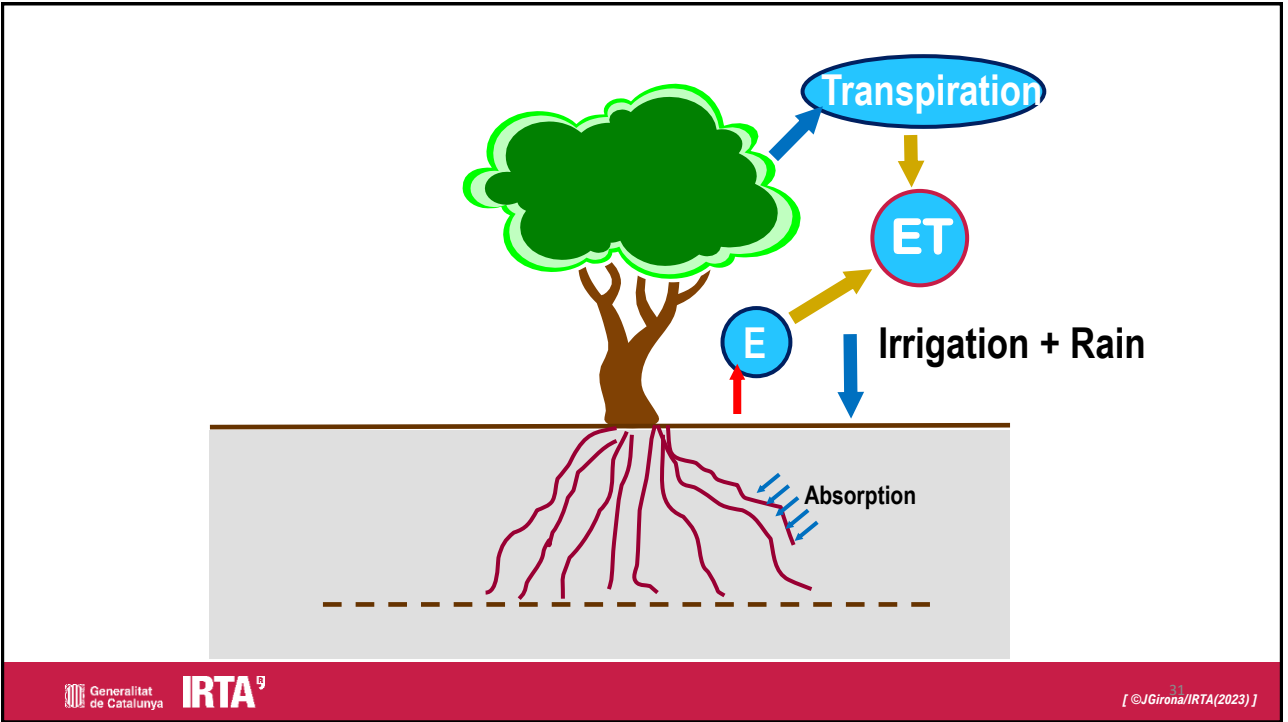
- To know the patterns of water in the soil and the plant.
- **Very precise irrigation management.**
  - System
  - **Strategy**
    - **Full Irrigation**
    - Deficit Irrigation



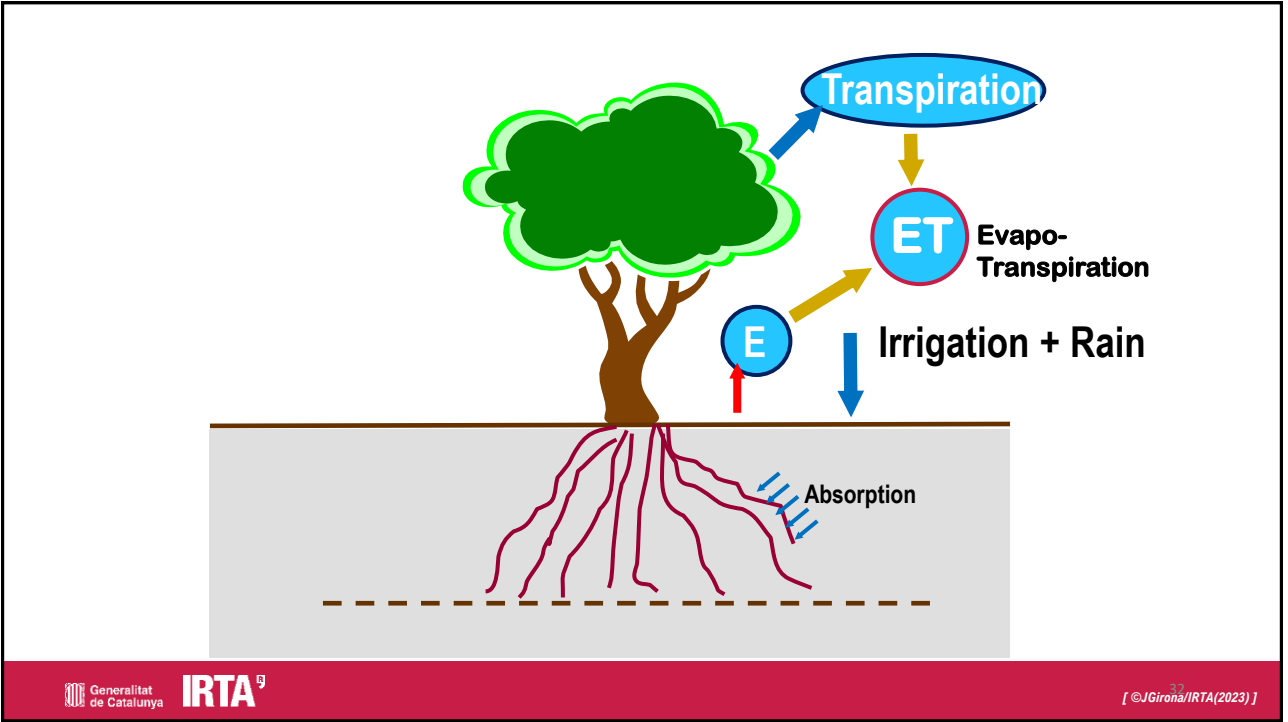
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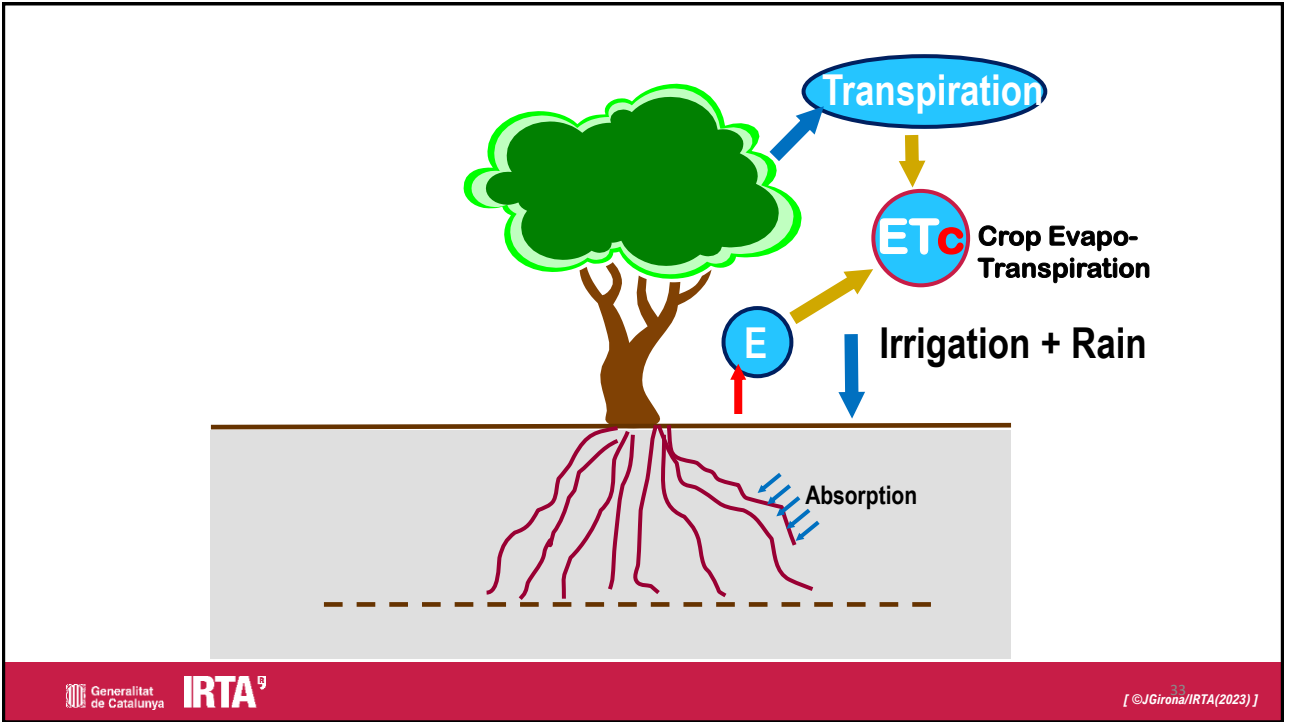


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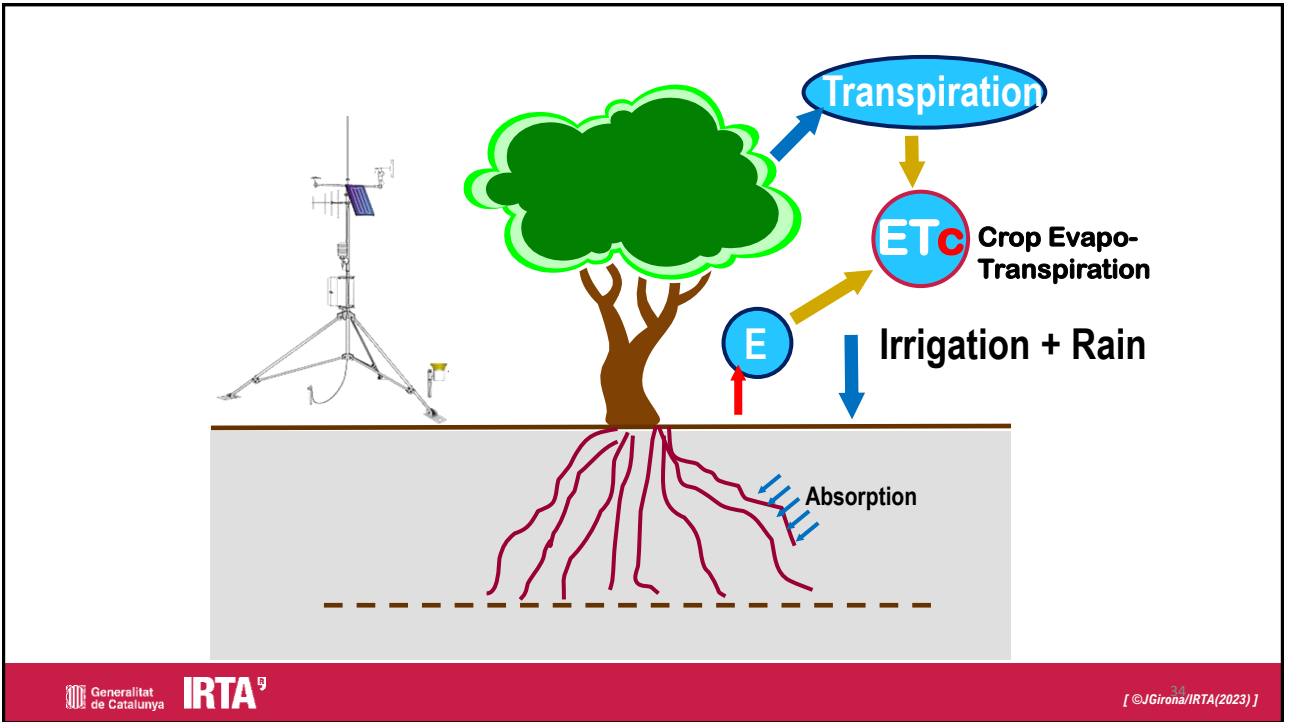


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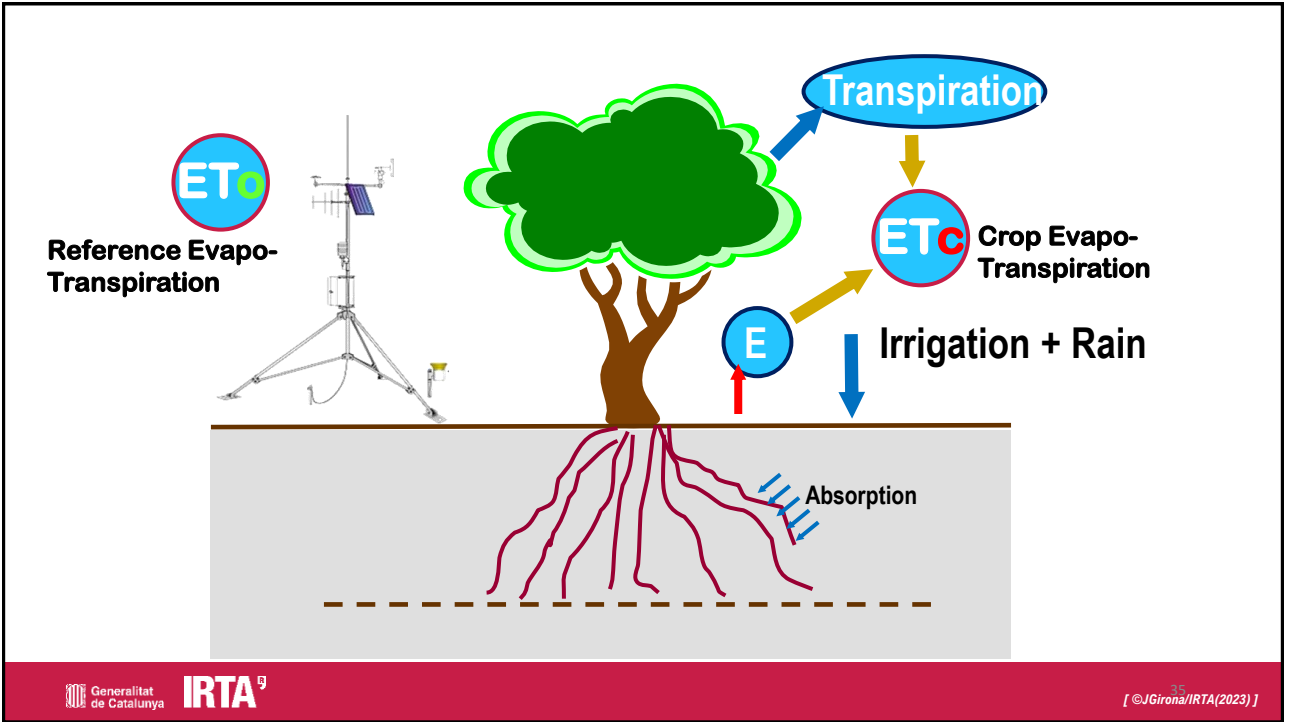




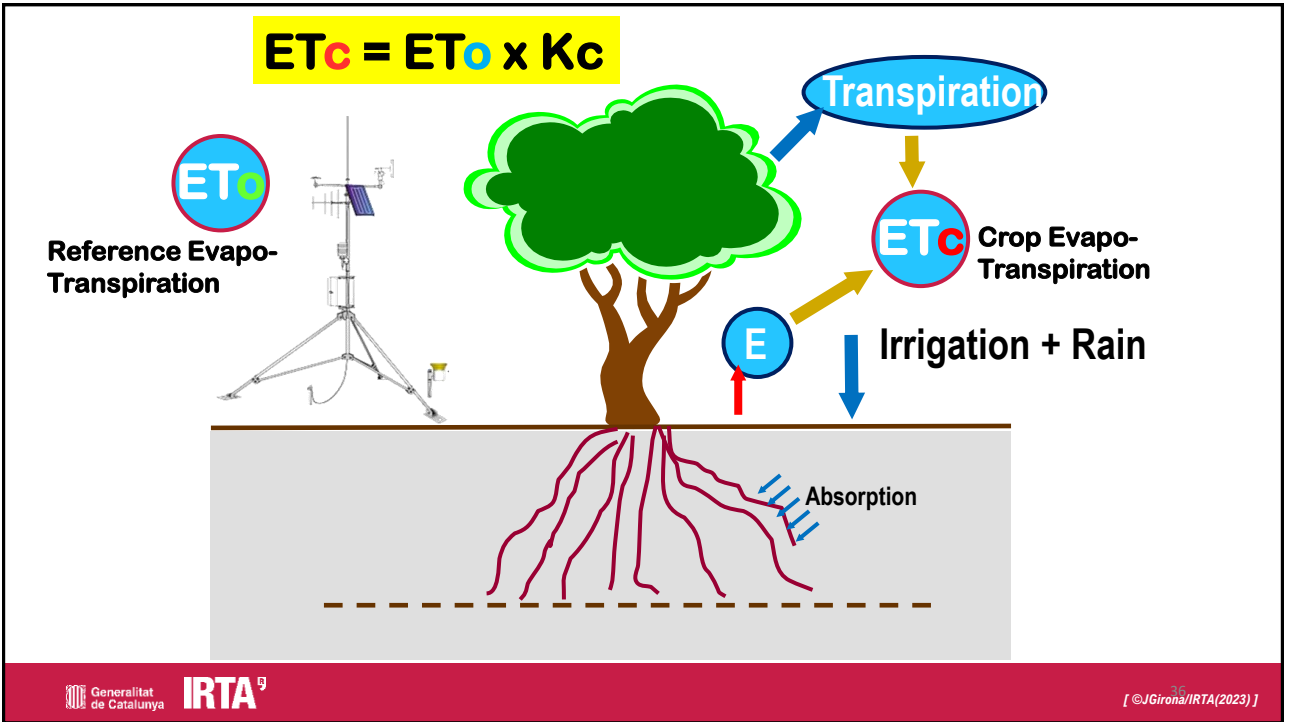
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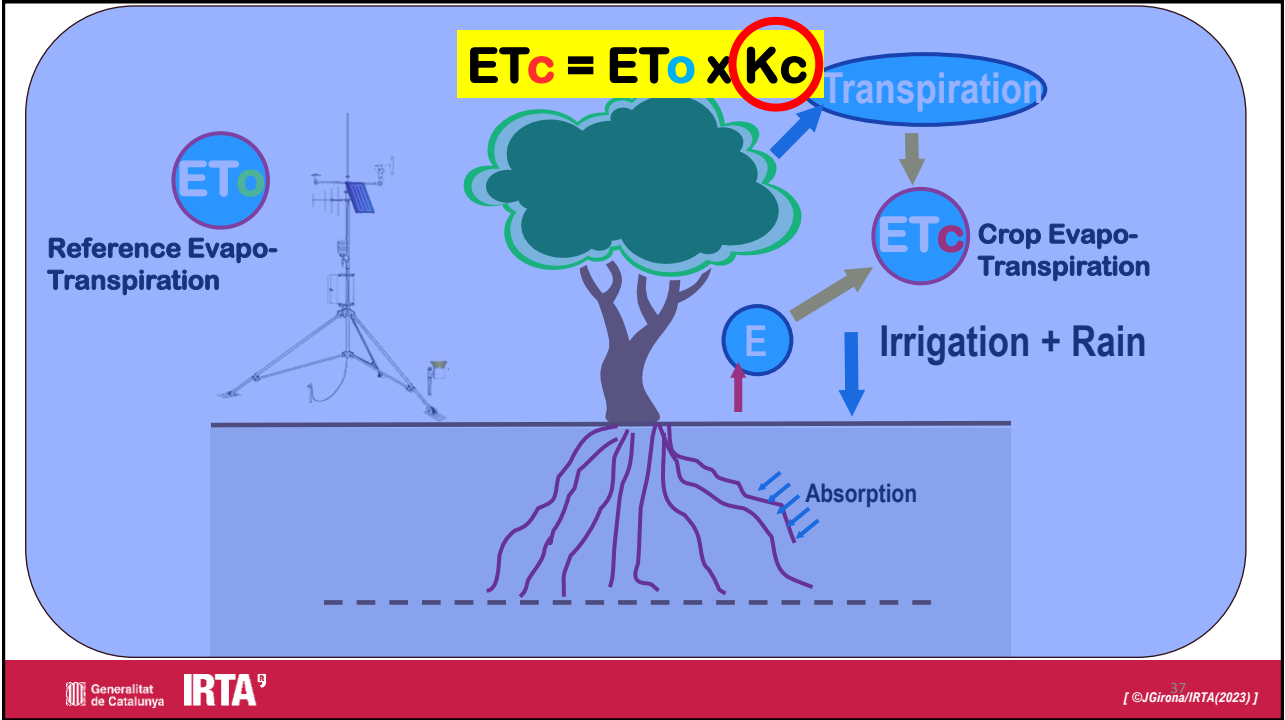
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**$ET_c = ET_0 \times K_c$**

**TABLE 2** Apple orchard water requirements, based on an orchard planted at 4 x 1.6 m, trained with a central leader and with a ground cover about 45-50 percent and tree heights > 3.5 m. Located in Mollerussa (Lleida, Spain).  $ET_c$  values used are the average daily data from the last 8 years (2002-2009).

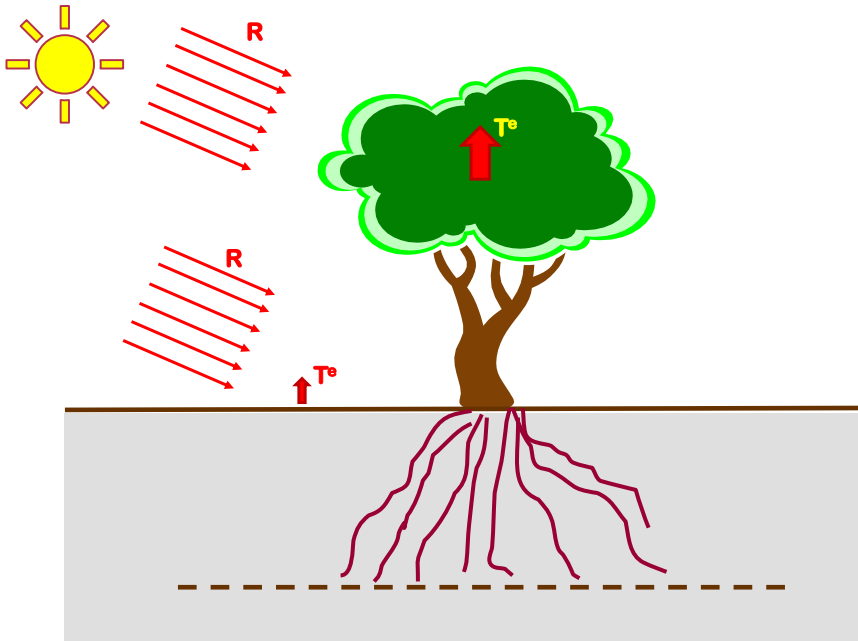
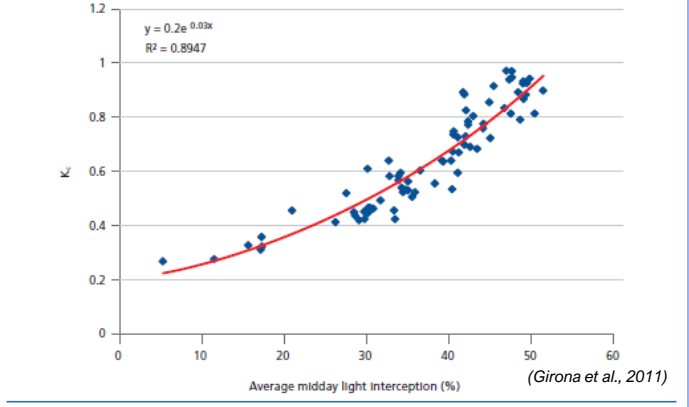
		FULL IRRIGATION		MODERATE RDI		SEVERE RDI		
		$ET_0$ (mm/day)	$K_c$	$ET_c$ (mm/day)	$K_c$	$ET_c$ (mm/day)	$K_c$	$ET_c$ (mm/day)
March	1-15	2.19	0.30	0.66	0.30	0.66	0.30	0.66
March	16-31	2.61	0.30	0.78	0.30	0.78	0.30	0.78
April	1-15	2.70	0.40	1.08	0.40	1.08	0.30	0.81
April	16-30	3.75	0.45	1.69	0.45	1.69	0.30	1.13
May	1-15	3.95	0.60	2.37	0.60	2.37	0.40	1.58
May	16-31	4.64	0.75	3.48	0.75	3.48	0.40	1.86
June	1-15	5.08	0.82	4.17	0.82	4.17	0.50	2.54
June	16-30	5.45	0.87	4.74	0.87	4.74	0.50	2.73
July	1-15	5.40	0.92	4.97	0.90	4.86	0.50	2.70
July	16-31	5.47	0.93	5.09	0.70	2.74	0.45	2.46
August	1-15	4.90	0.93	4.56	0.50	2.45	0.45	2.21
August	16-31	4.45	0.94	4.18	0.50	2.22	0.45	2.00
September	1-15	3.57	0.95	3.39	0.50	1.78	0.45	1.61
September	16-30	3.01	0.75	2.26	0.50	1.51	0.45	1.35
October	1-15	2.44	0.60	1.46	0.50	1.22	0.45	1.10
October	16-31	1.60	0.55	0.88	0.55	0.88	0.55	0.88

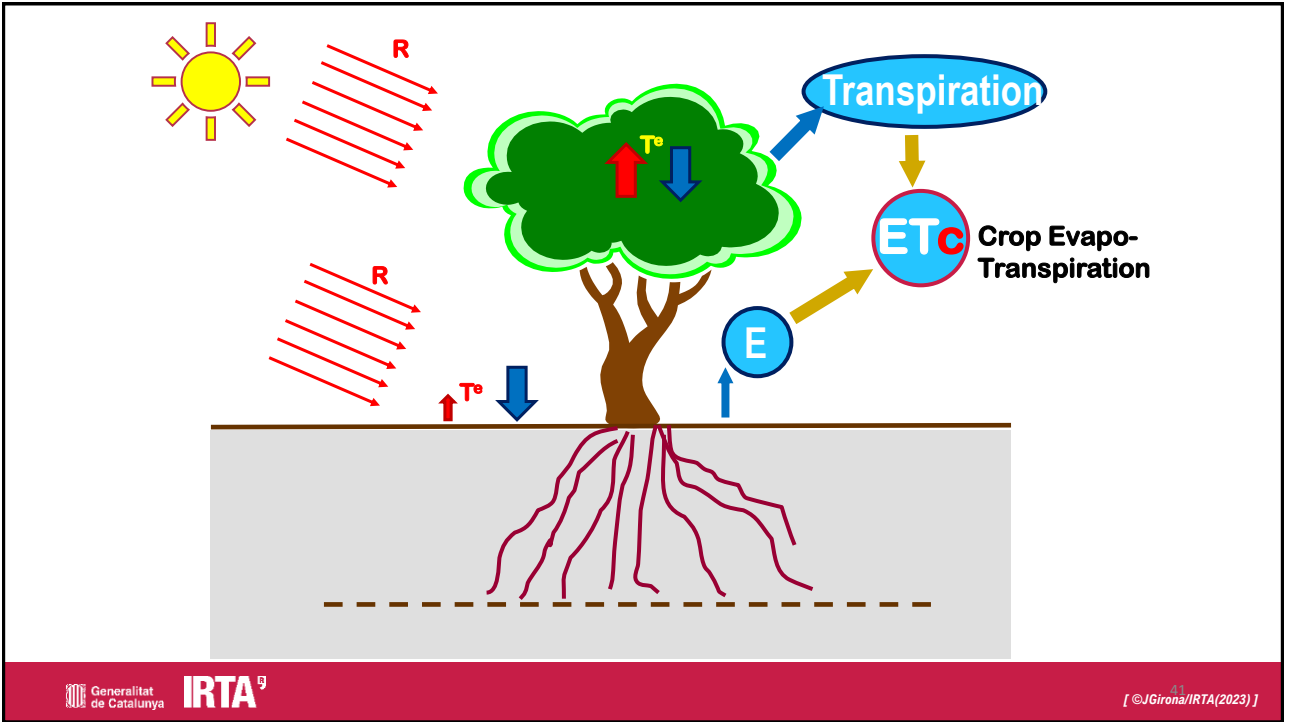
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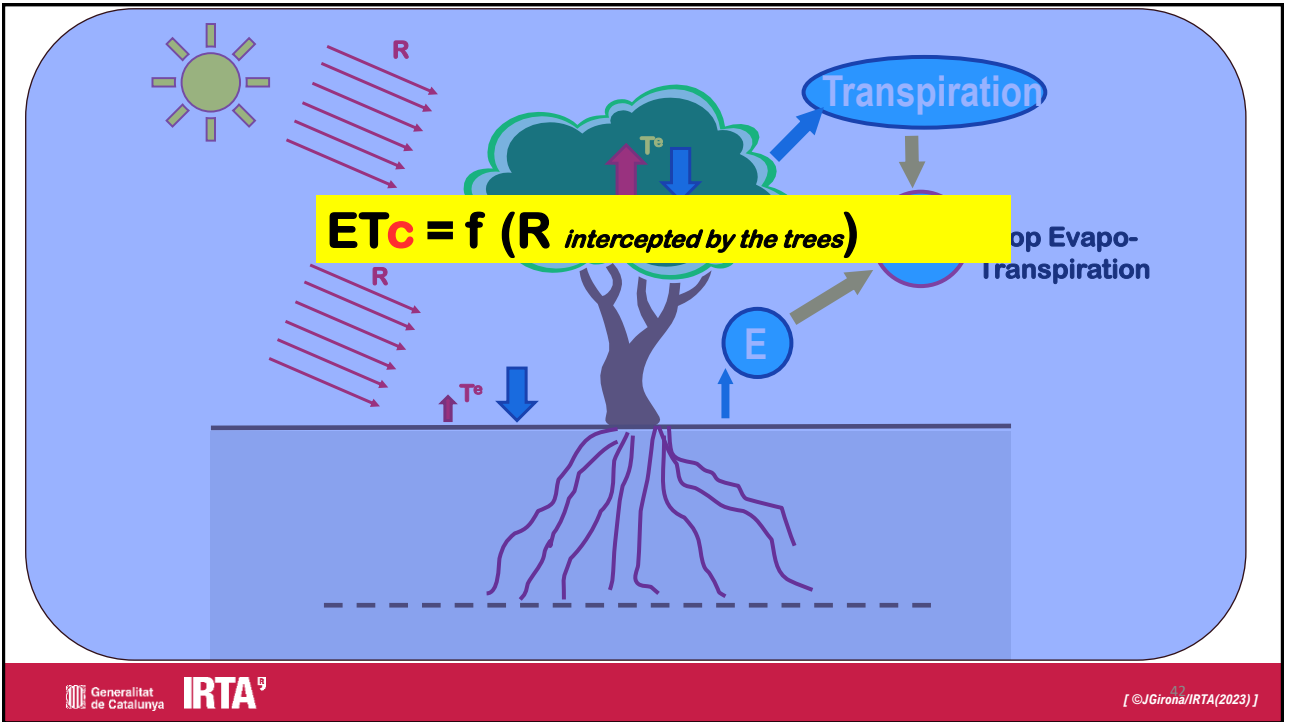
$ET_c = ET_o \times K_c$

FIGURE 7 Effect of midday light interception of apples on their  $K_c$  values - data from a weighing lysimeter study of commercial size trees within an orchard in Mollerussa (Lleida, Spain) (Girona et al., 2011).

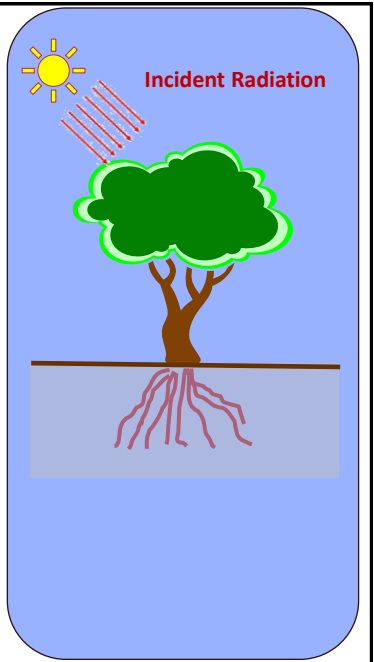




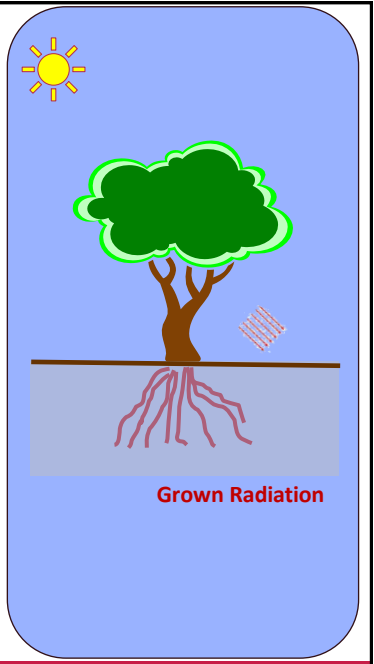
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Incident Radiation

$I_{rad}$

$I_{rad} = I_{n_{rad}} - G_{rad}$

Grown Radiation

$G_{rad}$

$\%I_{rad} = \frac{I_{rad}}{I_{n_{rad}}}$

Intercepted Radiation

$T_e$

$I_{rad}$

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Copernicus  
Europe's eyes on Earth

Intercepted Radiation

$T_e$

$\% I_{rad}$

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opernicus  
Europe's eyes on Earth

**Kc**

**Intercepted Radiation**

$T^e$

**% I<sub>rad</sub>**

**FIGURE 7** Effect of midday light interception of apples on their K<sub>c</sub> values - data from a weighing lysimeter study of commercial size trees within an orchard in Mollerussa (Lleida, Spain) (Girona et al., 2011).

$y = 0.26 \cdot 0.63^x$   
 $R^2 = 0.8947$

Average midday light interception (%)

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[ ©JGirona/IRTA(2023) ]

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opernicus  
Europe's eyes on Earth

**ET<sub>c</sub> = ET<sub>o</sub> x K<sub>c</sub>**

**Intercepted Radiation**

$T^e$

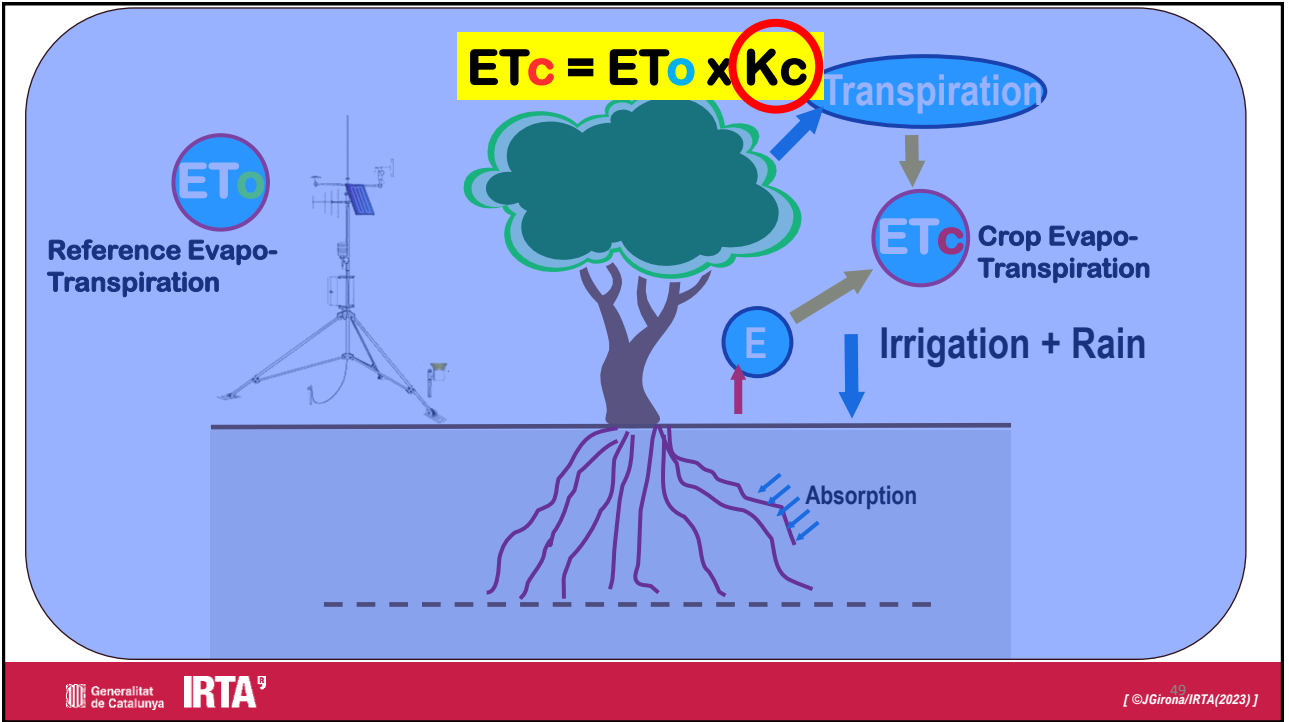
**% I<sub>rad</sub>**

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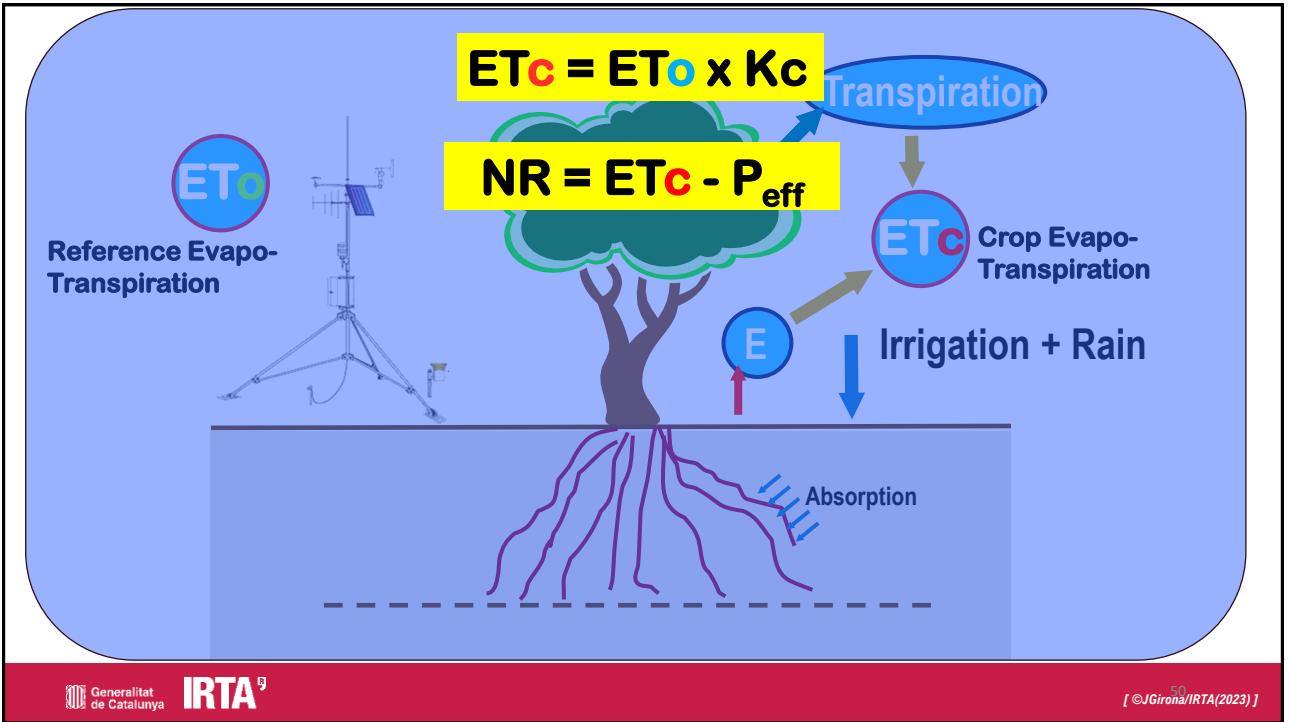
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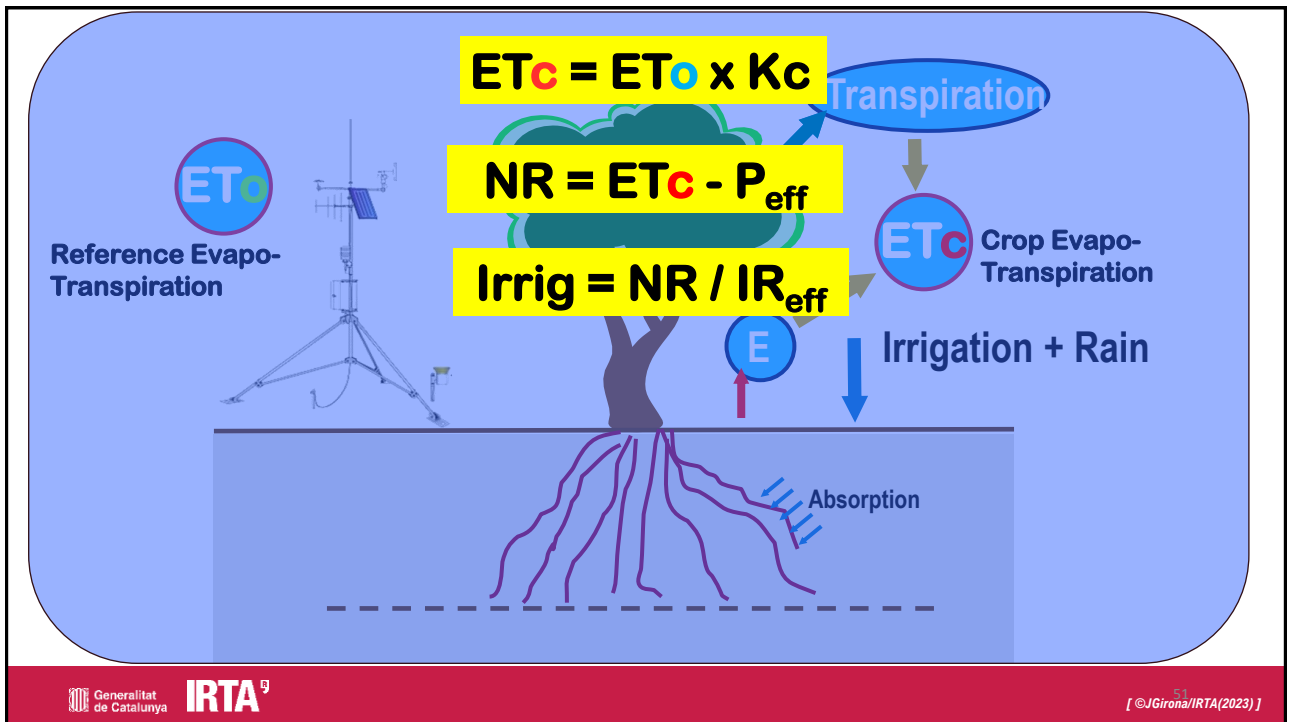




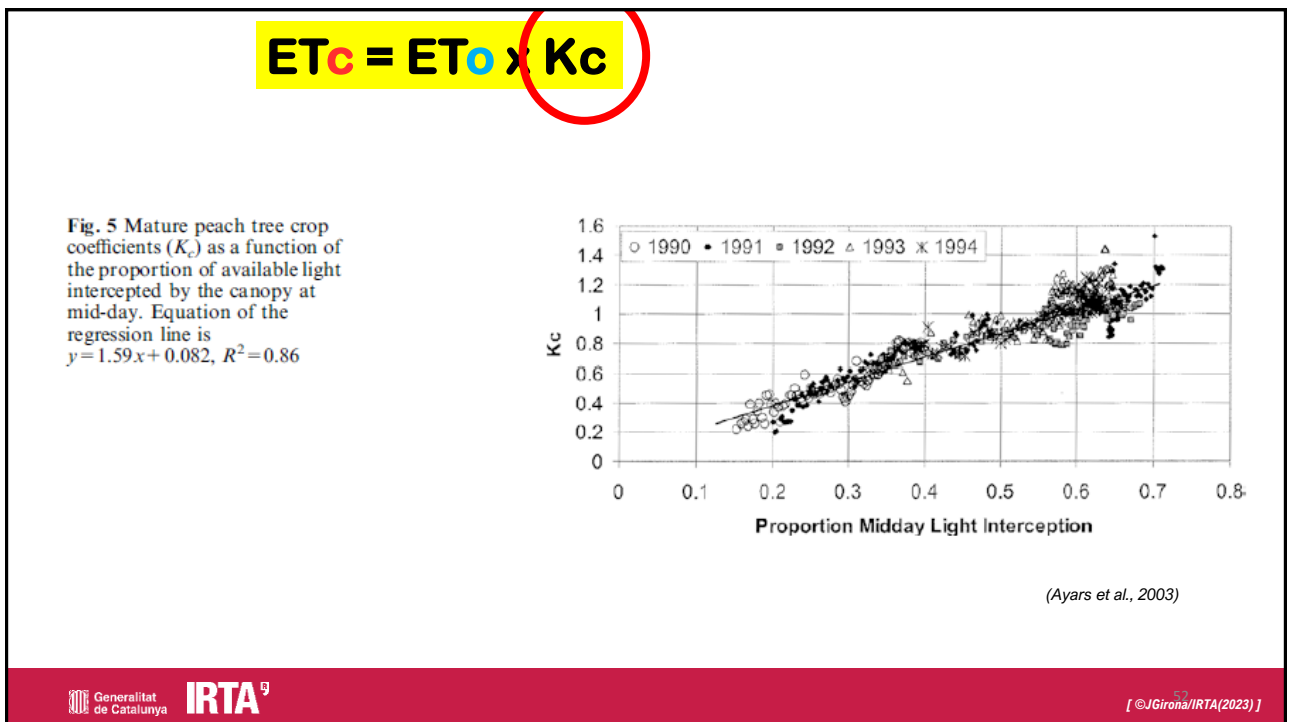
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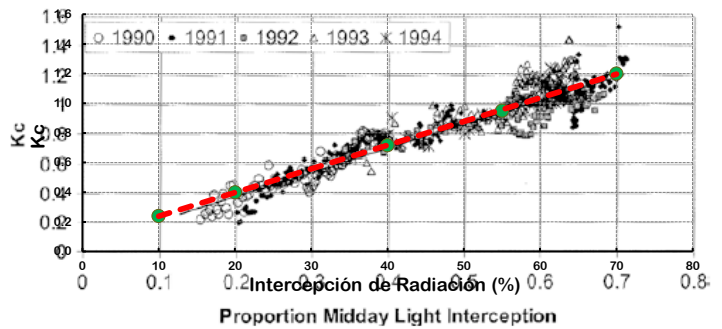
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$$ET_c = ET_o \times K_c$$

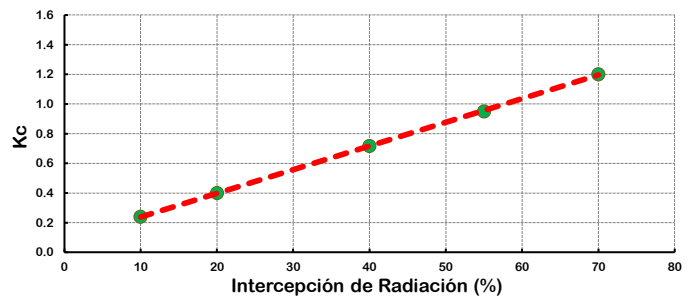
Fig. 5 Mature peach tree crop coefficients ( $K_c$ ) as a function of the proportion of available light intercepted by the canopy at mid-day. Equation of the regression line is  $y = 1.59x + 0.082$ ,  $R^2 = 0.86$



(Ayars et al., 2003)

$$ET_c = ET_o \times K_c$$

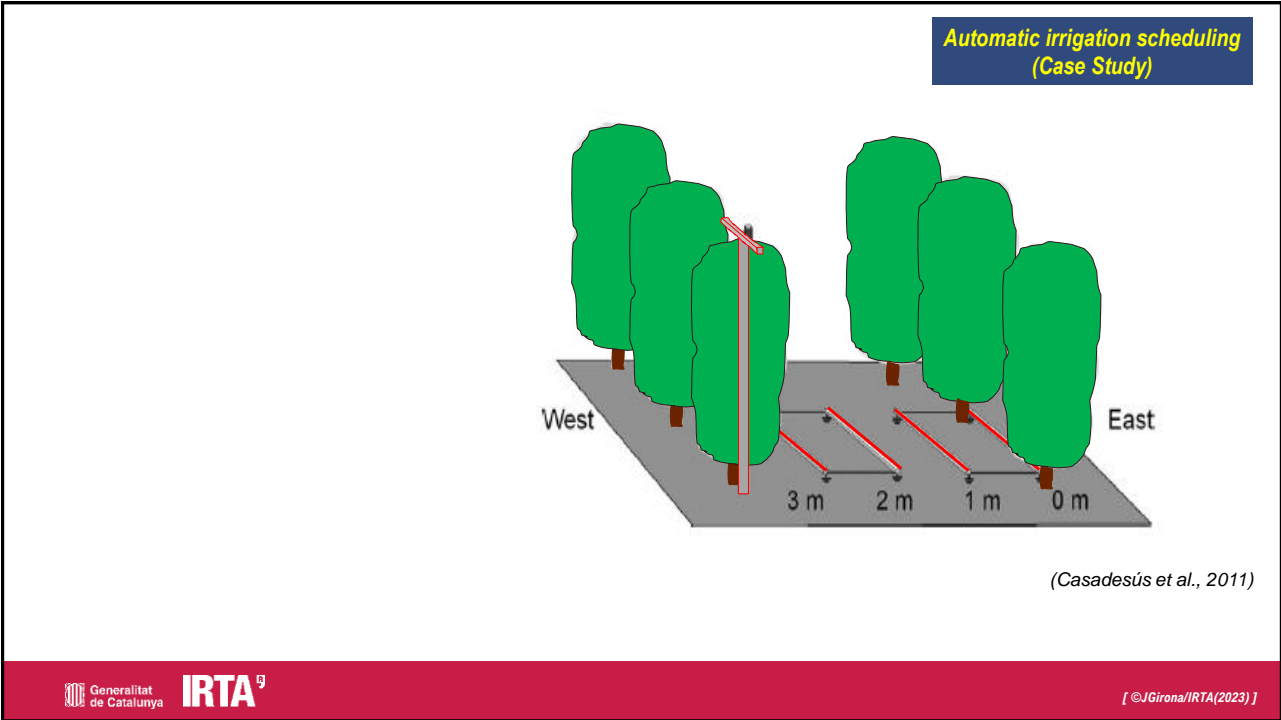
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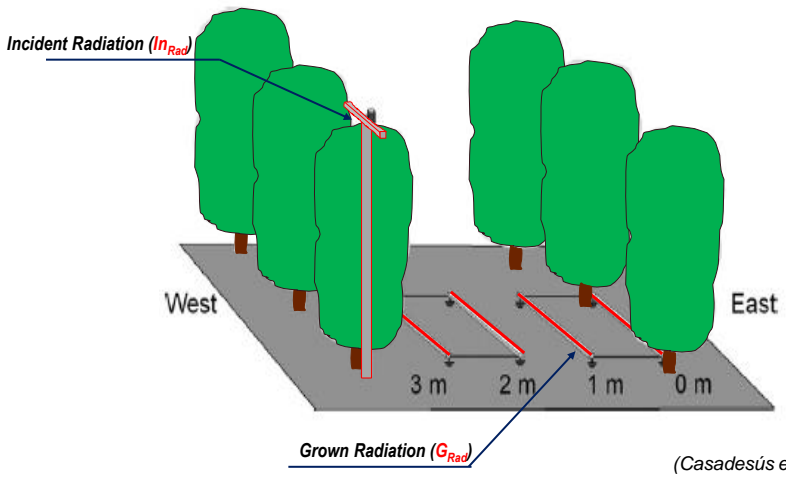


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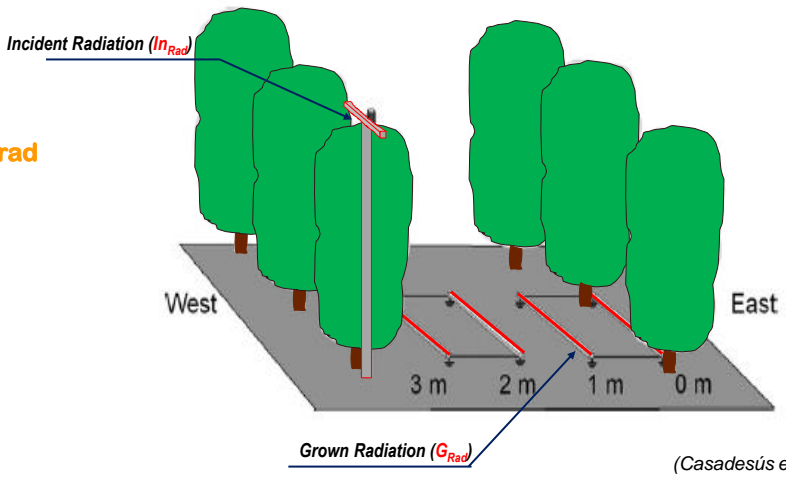
Automatic irrigation scheduling  
(Case Study)



(Casadesús et al., 2011)

Automatic irrigation scheduling  
(Case Study)

$$I_{rad} = In_{rad} - G_{rad}$$



(Casadesús et al., 2011)

**Automatic irrigation scheduling  
(Case Study)**


$$I_{rad} = I_{n_{rad}} - G_{rad}$$

$$W = K_{RI} * I_{rad}$$

(Auzmendi et al., 2011)

$W$  = Irrigation water to be applied (mm/día)  
 $K_{ir}$  = Coefficient (l / MJ<sup>-1</sup>)  
 $I_{rad}$  = Intercepted Radiation (MJ)

(Casadesús et al., 2011)


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**Automatic irrigation scheduling  
(Case Study)**

## Irrigation Treatments

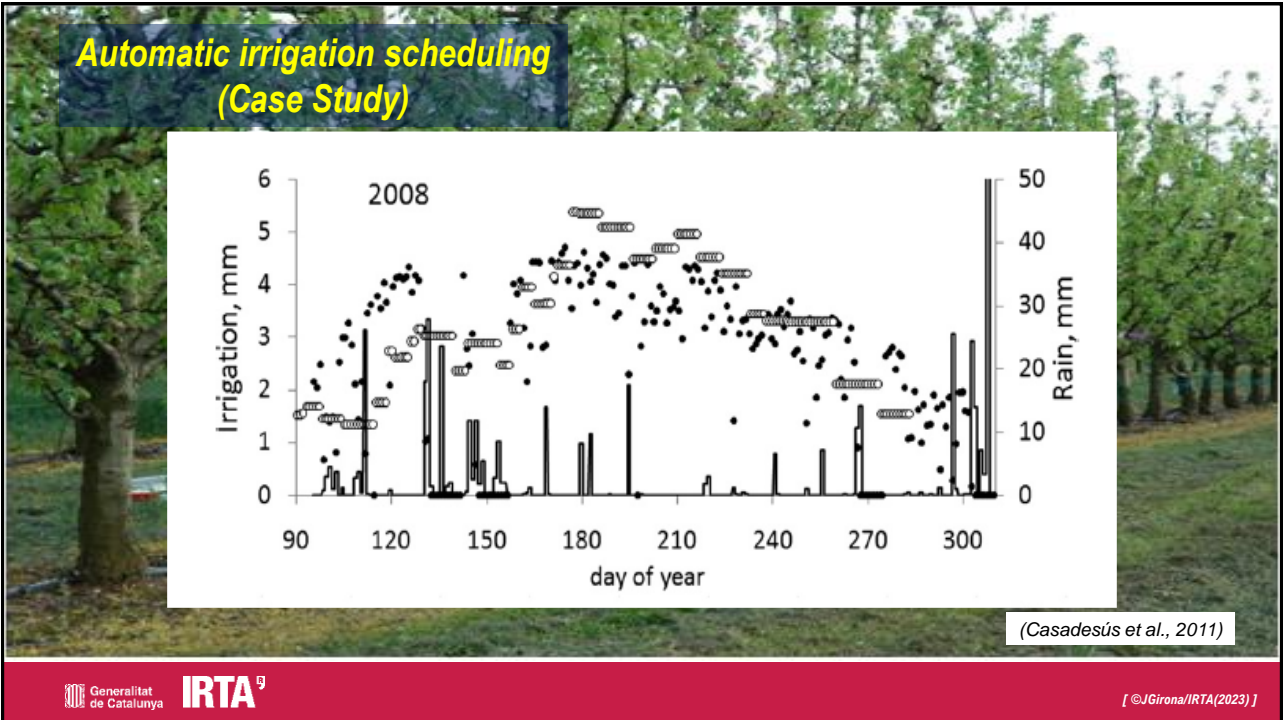
$$I_{rad\ based} = f(ET_o, I_{rad})$$

$$WB = f(ET_c \text{ y } \Psi_{md})$$

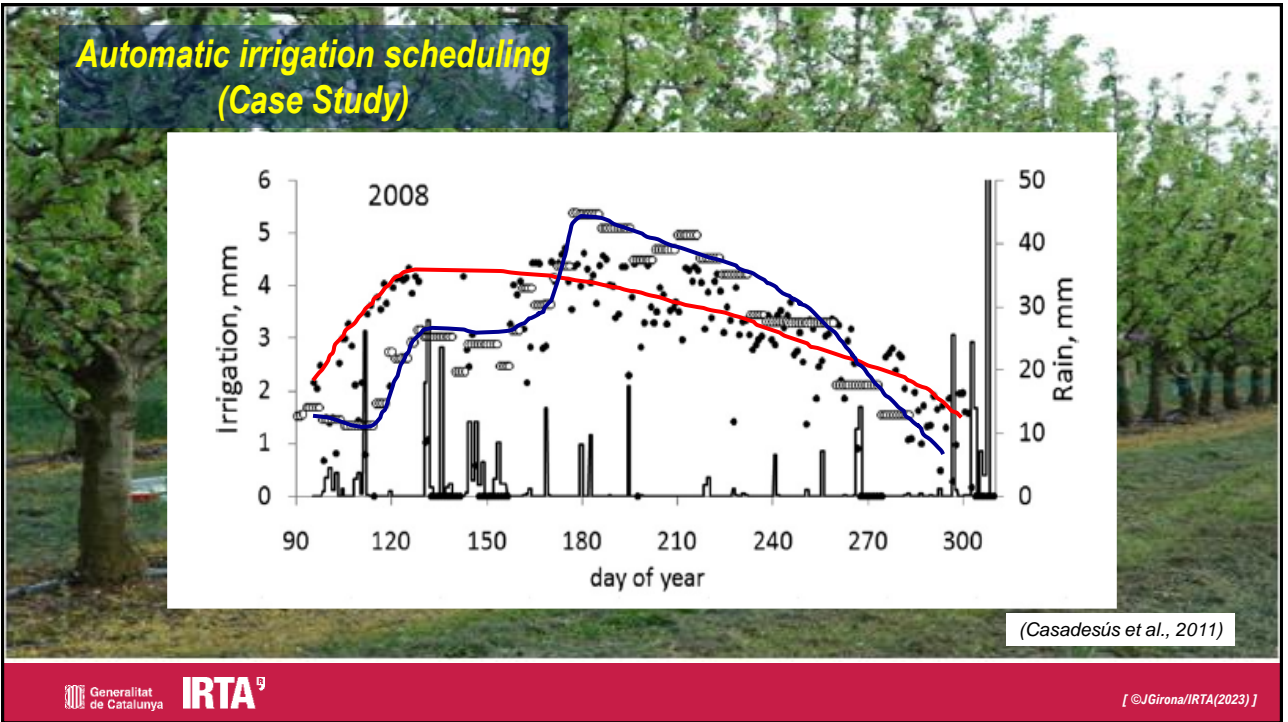
(Casadesús et al., 2011)


[ ©Girona/IRTA(2023) ]

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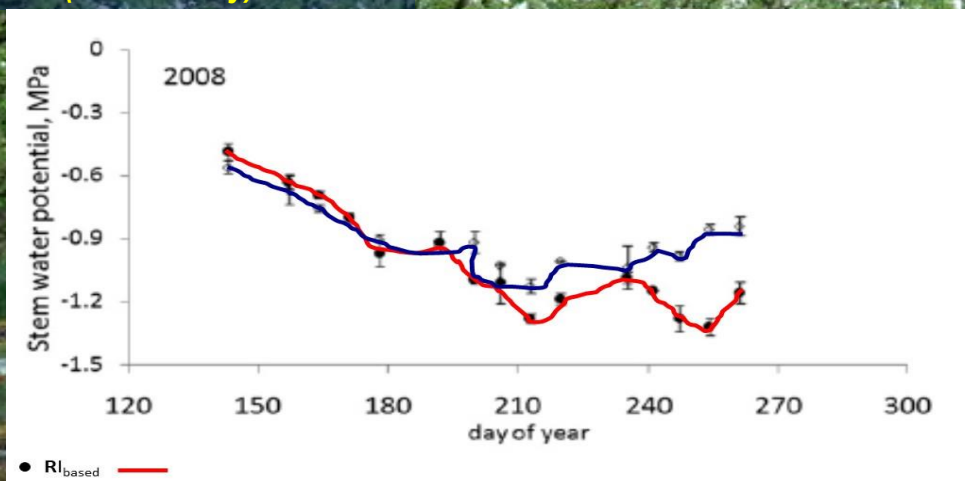


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## Automatic irrigation scheduling (Case Study)



(Casadesús et al., 2011)

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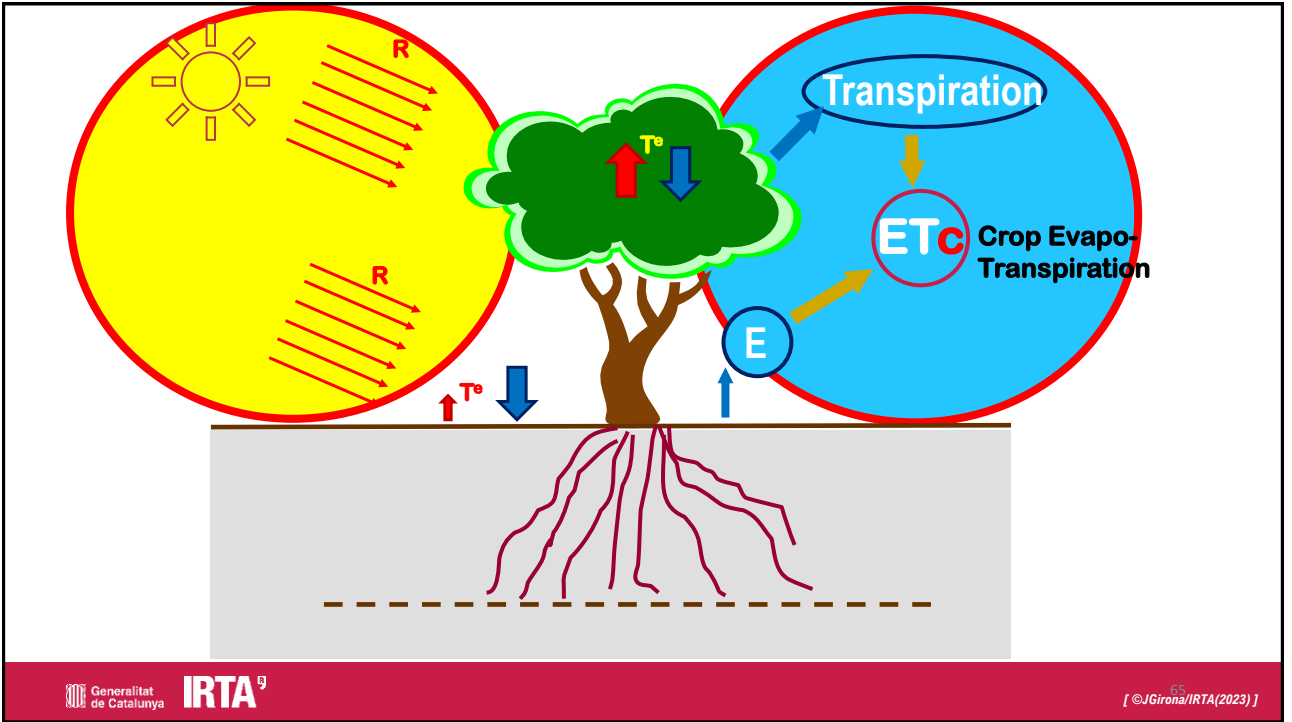
## Automatic irrigation scheduling (Case Study)

Year	Irrigation Treatment	Irrigation Applied Water (mm)	Yield (t/ha)	Fruit Weight (g)	Fruit Load (fruits/tree)
2008	Irad <sub>based</sub>	606			
	WB <sub>based</sub>	615			
2009	Irad <sub>based</sub>	703	45	220	131
	WB <sub>based</sub>	748	43	234	119

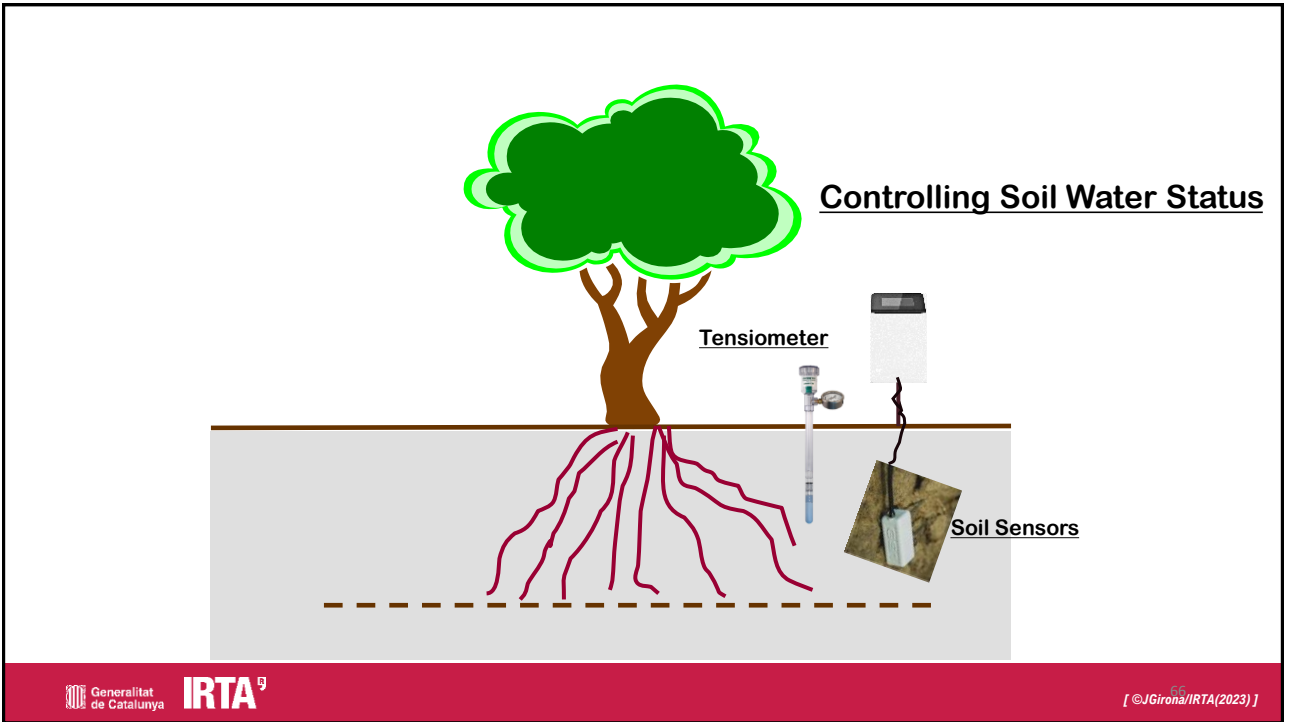
(Casadesús et al., 2011)

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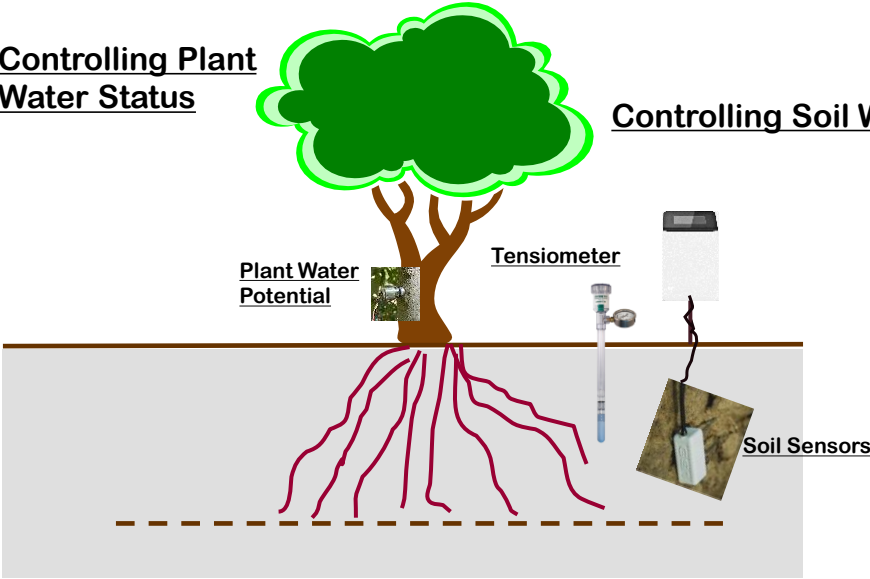
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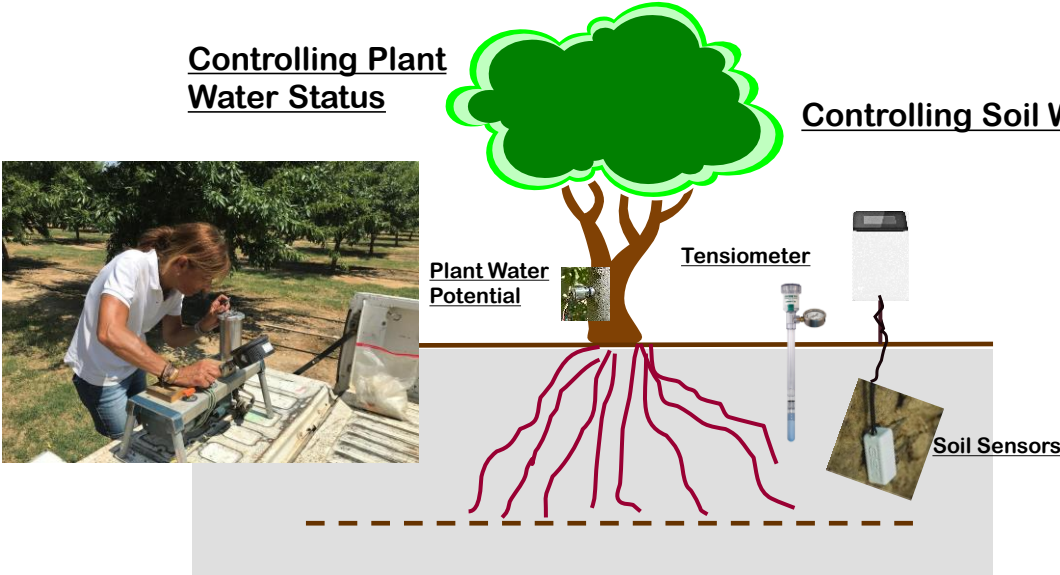
Controlling Plant Water Status

Controlling Soil Water Status

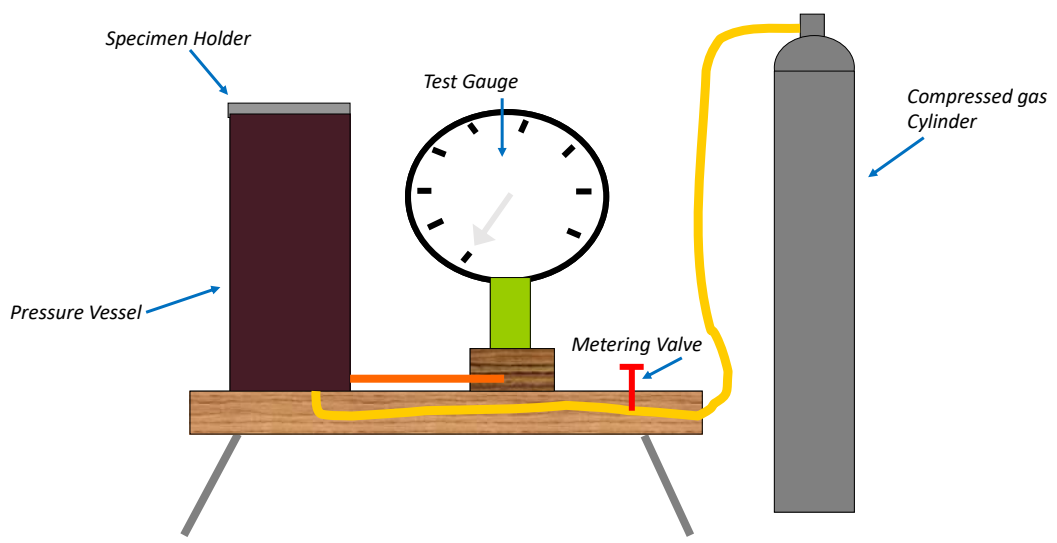


Controlling Plant Water Status

Controlling Soil Water Status



### Determination of Leaf Water Potential ( $\Psi_h$ )



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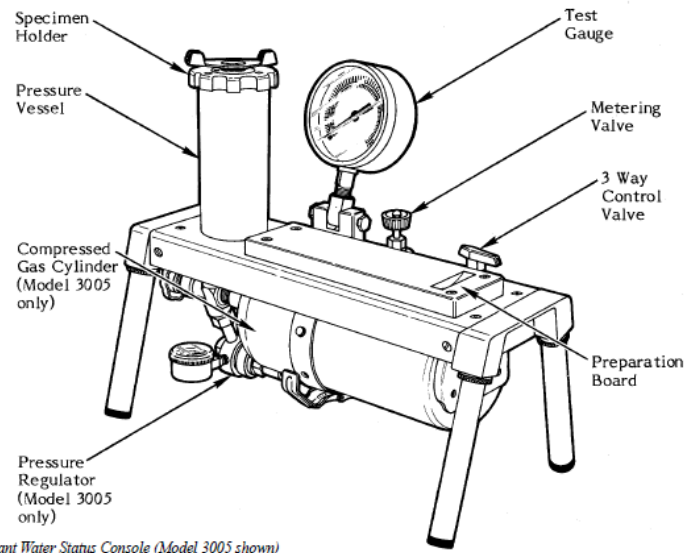
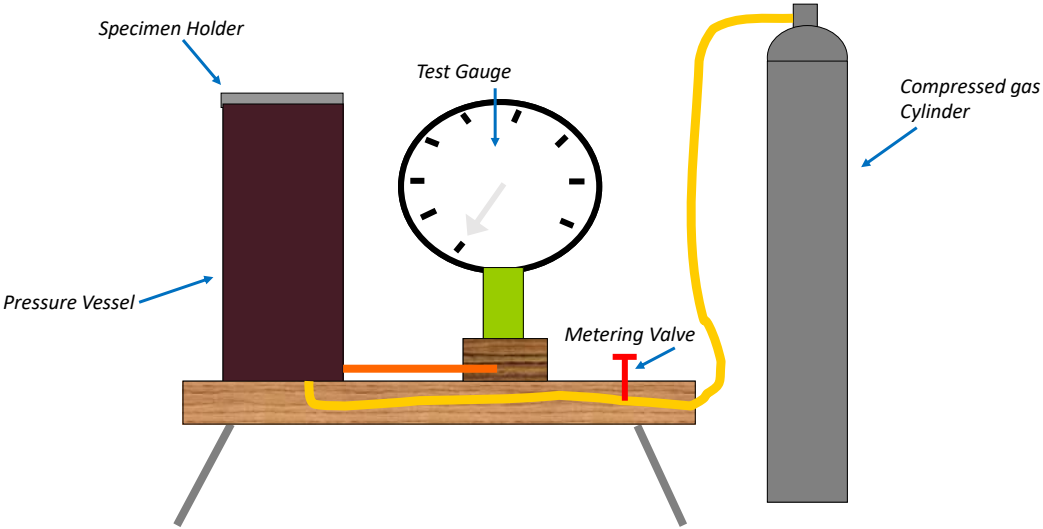


Fig. 2 - Plant Water Status Console (Model 3005 shown)

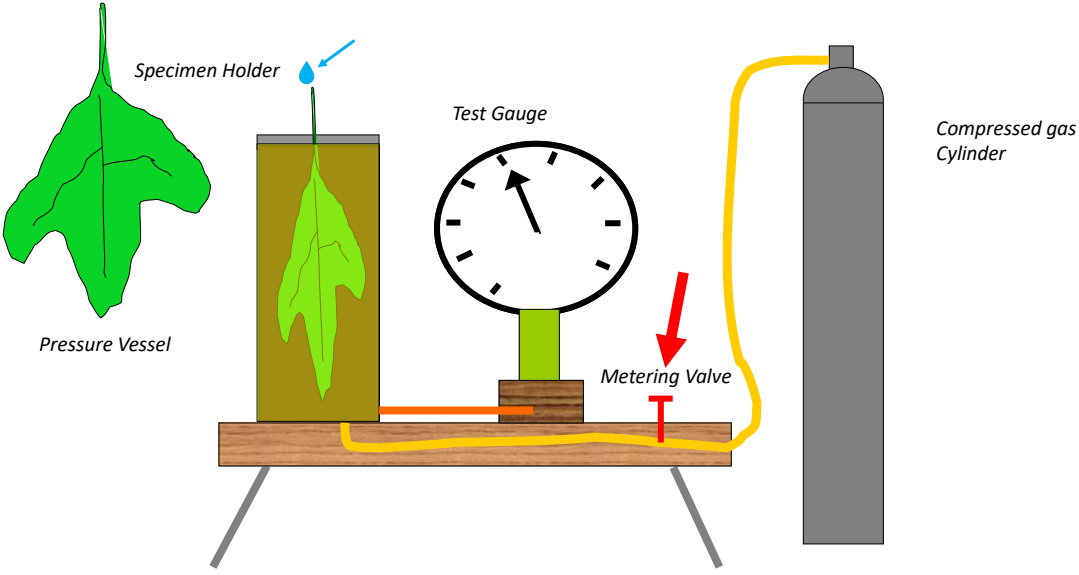
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### Determination of Leaf Water Potential ( $\Psi_h$ )



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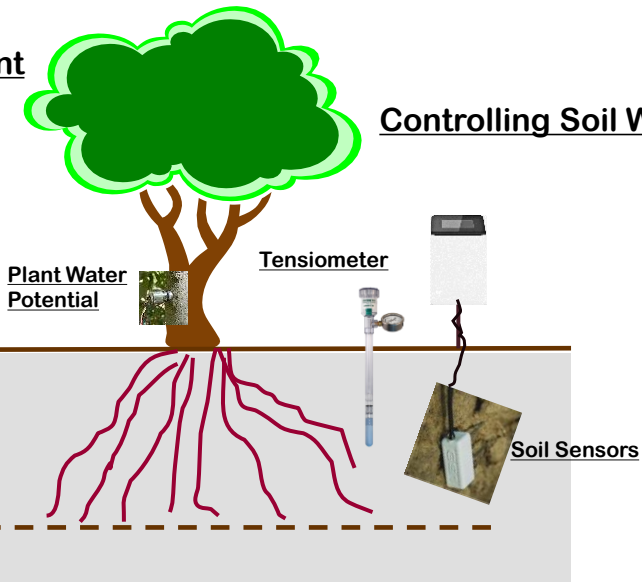
### Determination of Leaf Water Potential ( $\Psi_h$ )



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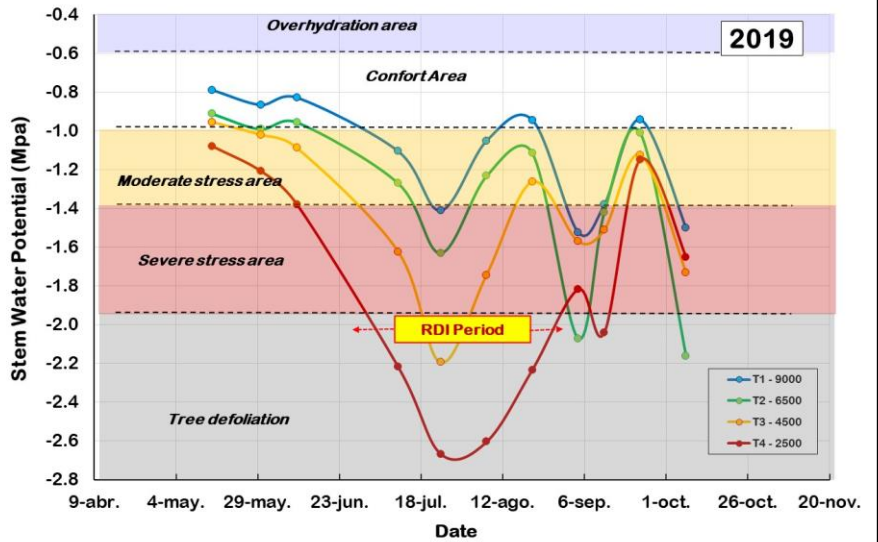
### Controlling Plant Water Status

### Controlling Soil Water Status



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Almond tree physiological response to different climatic scenarios, water availability and productive load.



74



## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

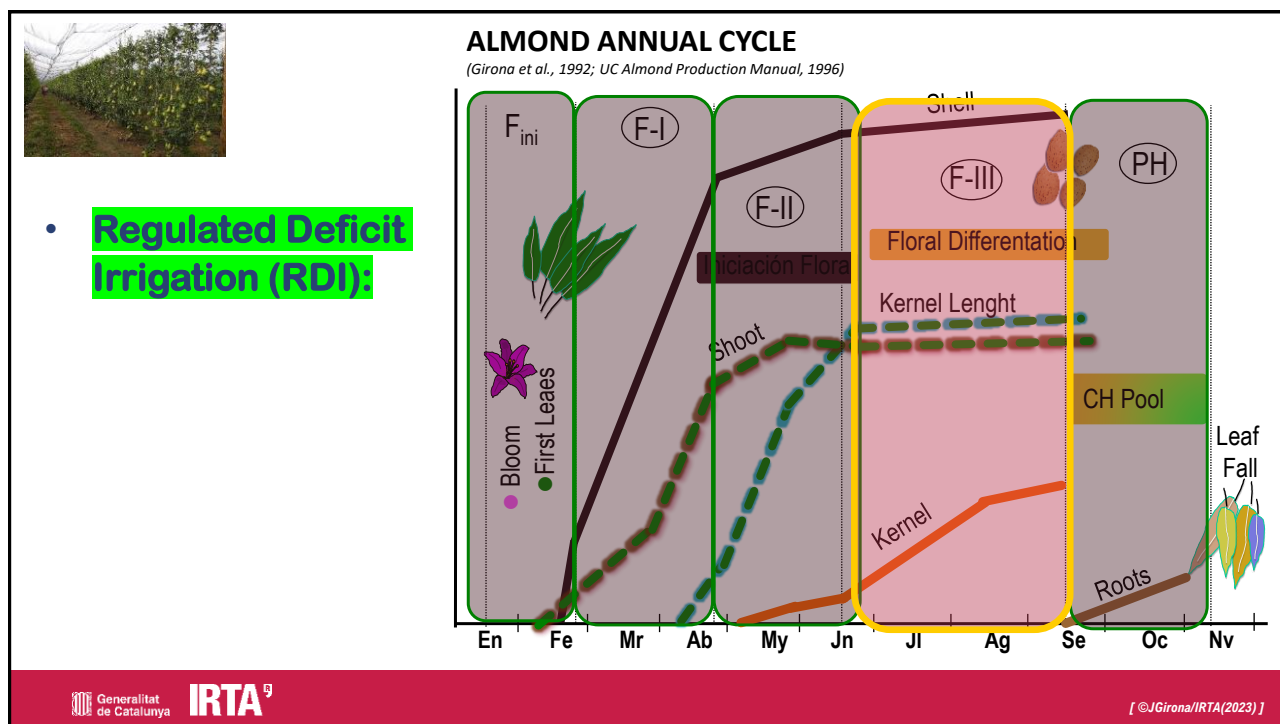
### Indispensable:

- To know the patterns of water in the soil and the plant.
- **Very precise irrigation management.**
  - System
  - **Strategy**
    - Full Irrigation
    - **Deficit Irrigation**



## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

- **Deficit Irrigation:** Applying less irrigation water than the crop needs
- **Regulated Deficit Irrigation (RDI):**  
Applying less irrigation water than the crop needs, but at the moments in the annual cycle when the crop is less sensitive to water stress



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**“Efficient use of water in fruit crops”**

**Indispensable:**

- To know the patterns of water in the soil and the plant.
- Very precise irrigation management.**
  - System
  - Strategy
    - Full Irrigation
    - Deficit Irrigation & RDI.

Generalitat de Catalunya **IRTA**  
[ ©JGirona/IRTA(2023) ]

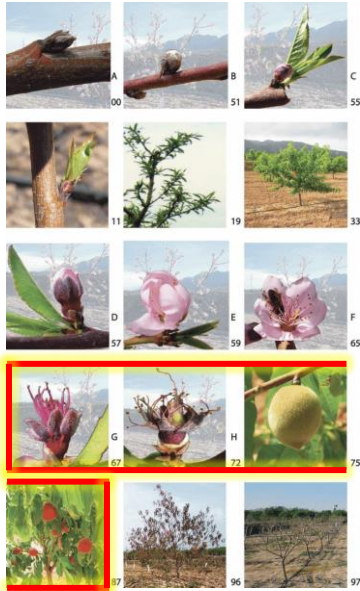
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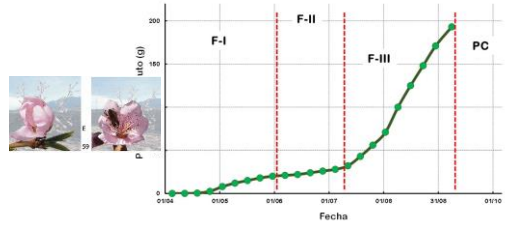
“Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

# REGULATED DEFICIT IRRIGATION

## PEACH TREE



## Peach Annual Cycle



(Mounzer et al., 2008)





### Peach Annual Cycle

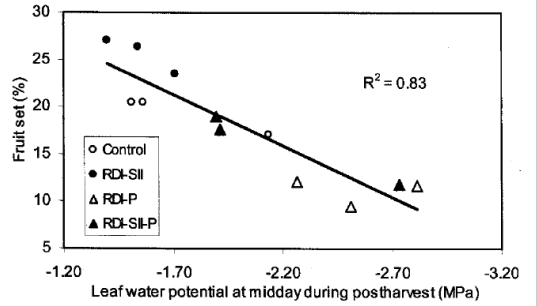
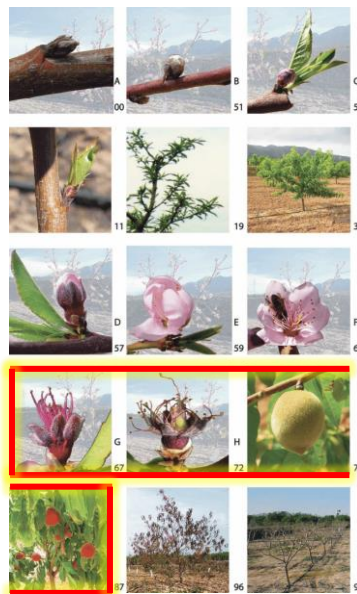


Fig. 5. Relationship between fruit set 2 months after full bloom in 1996 and seasonal average midday leaf water potential during a previous year at postharvest. Each observation corresponds to a treatment average. Open circles control, closed circles RDI-SII, open triangles RDI-P, and closed triangles RDI-SII-P.

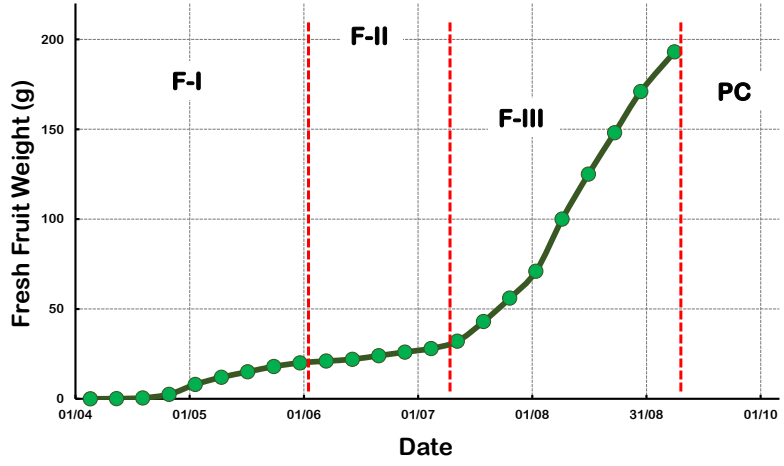
(Girona et al., 2003)

(Mounzer et al., 2008)

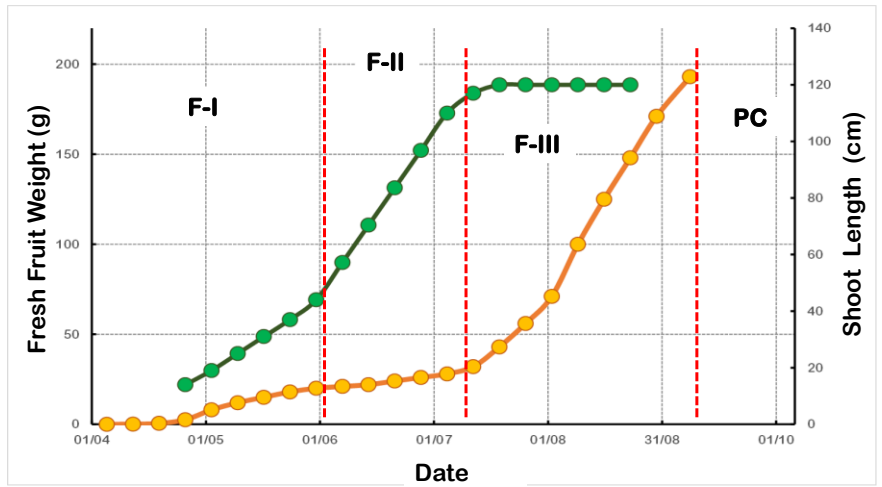


### Peach Annual Cycle

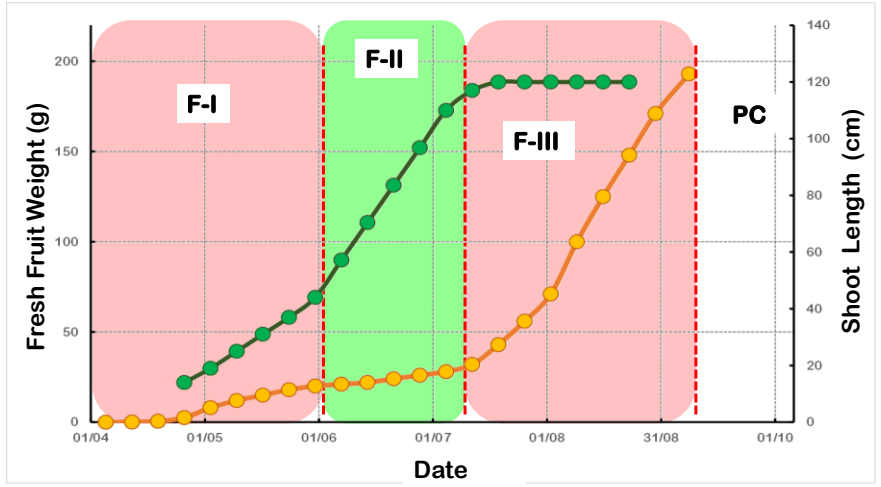
(Mounzer et al., 2008)



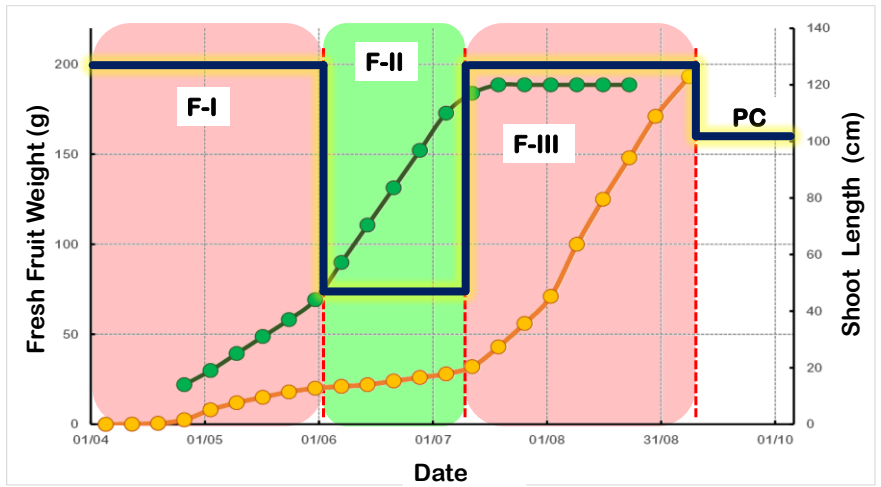
83



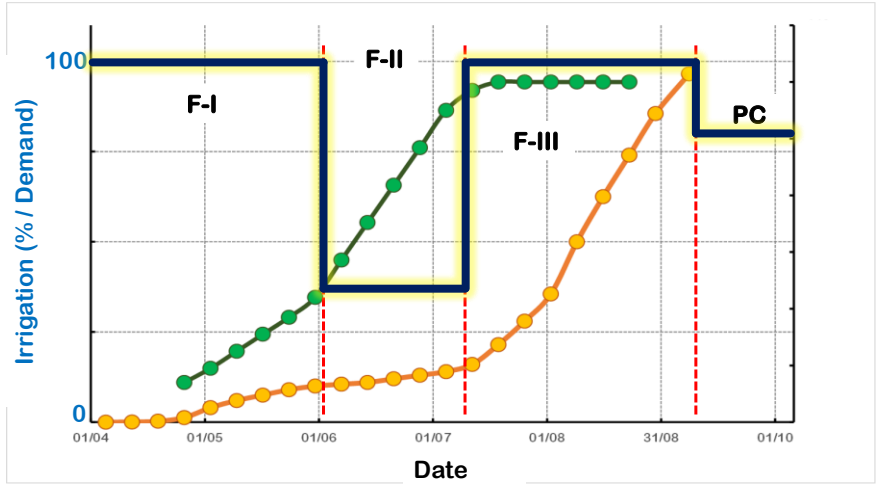
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Cultivar		Specifications		Peach Seasonal Stages											
				S-I				S-II		S-III		Post Harvest (PH)			
				Soils	Fruit Load	$\Psi_{stem}$ (Mpa)	ETc (%)	$\Psi_{stem}$ (Mpa)	ETc (%)	$\Psi_{stem}$ (Mpa)	ETc (%)	Initial		Late	
								$\Psi_{stem}$ (Mpa)	ETc (%)	$\Psi_{stem}$ (Mpa)	ETc (%)				
Early Cultivars	Deep Soils	High Fruit Load	-0.5	100 - 80			-0.7	100	-2.0	30 - 50	-1.5	50 - 70			
		Low Fruit Load	-0.8	100 - 50			-1.0	100	-2.2	30 - 50	-1.5	50 - 70			
	Shallow Soils	High Fruit Load	-0.5	100			-0.7	110 - 100	-2.0	50 - 70	-1.5	70 - 80			
		Low Fruit Load	-0.7	100 - 80			-0.8	100	-2.2	50 - 70	-1.5	70 - 80			
Mid Season Cultivars	Deep Soils	High Fruit Load	-0.5	100 - 80	-1.8	0 - 50	-0.9	130 : 100	-2.0	0 - 30	-1.5	50 - 70			
		Low Fruit Load	-0.8	100 - 50	-2.0	0 - 50	-1.2	130 : 100	-2.2	0 - 30	-1.5	50 - 70			
	Shallow Soils	High Fruit Load	-0.5	100	-1.6	40 - 70	-0.9	110 : 100	-2.0	20 - 50	-1.5	70 - 80			
		Low Fruit Load	-0.7	100 - 80	-1.8	40 - 50	-1.1	110 : 100	-2.2	20 - 50	-1.5	70 - 80			
Late Cultivars	Deep Soils	High Fruit Load	-0.5	100 - 80	-1.8	0 - 50	-1.0	130 : 100	-1.5	0 - 50					
		Low Fruit Load	-0.8	100 - 50	-2.0	0 - 50	-1.2	130 : 100	-1.5	0 - 50					
	Shallow Soils	High Fruit Load	-0.5	100	-1.6	40 - 70	-1.0	110 : 100	-1.5	50 - 70					
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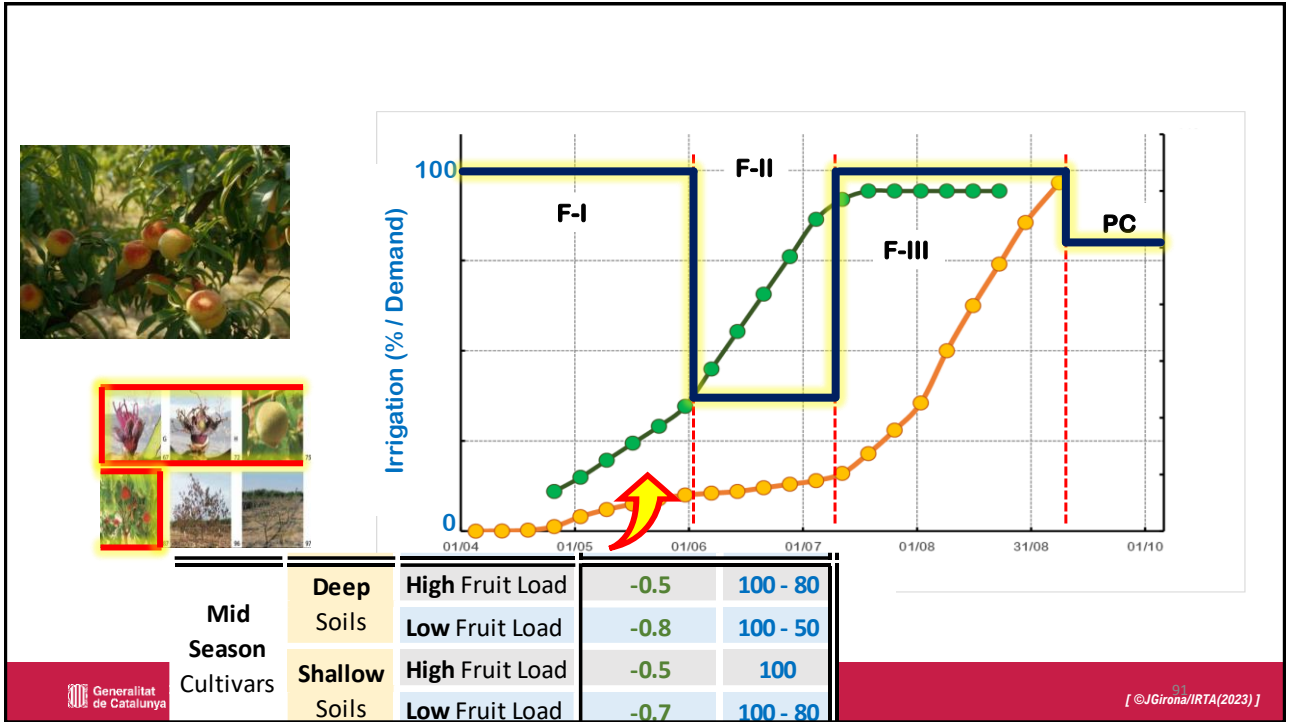
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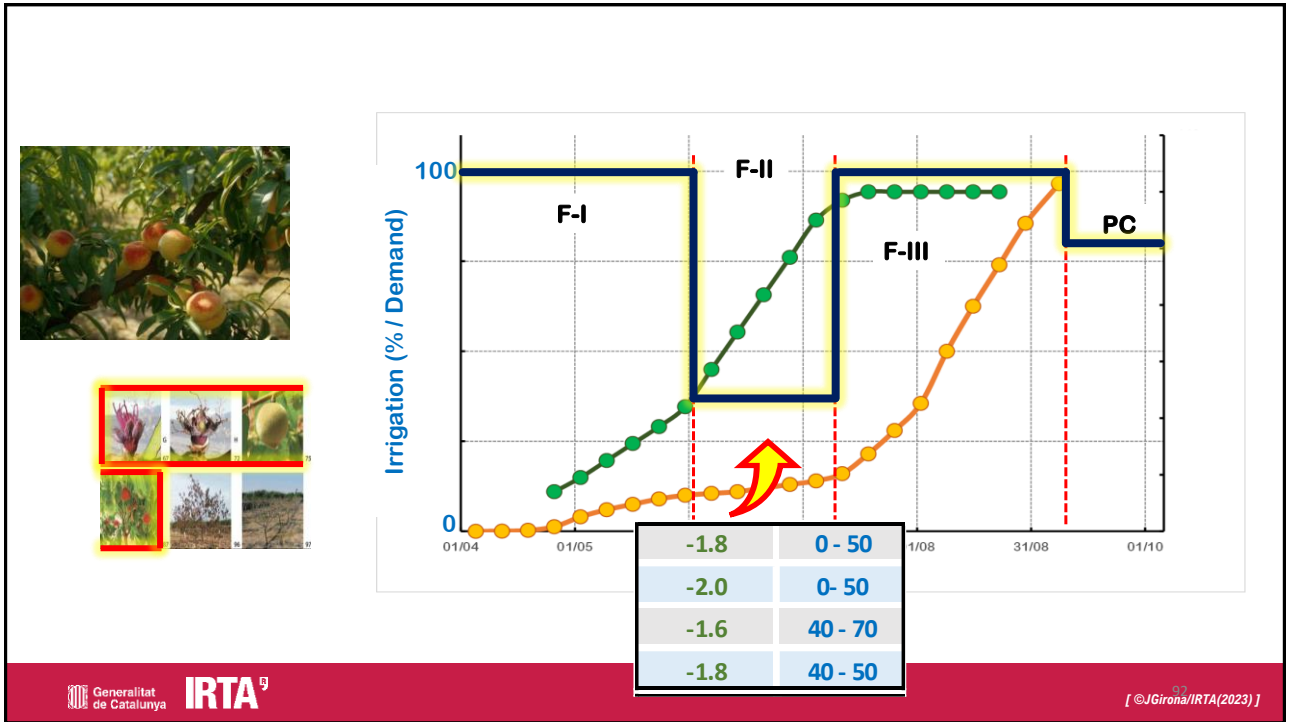



Cultivar	Specifications		Peach Seasonal Stages											
			S-I				S-II		S-III		Post Harvest (PH)			
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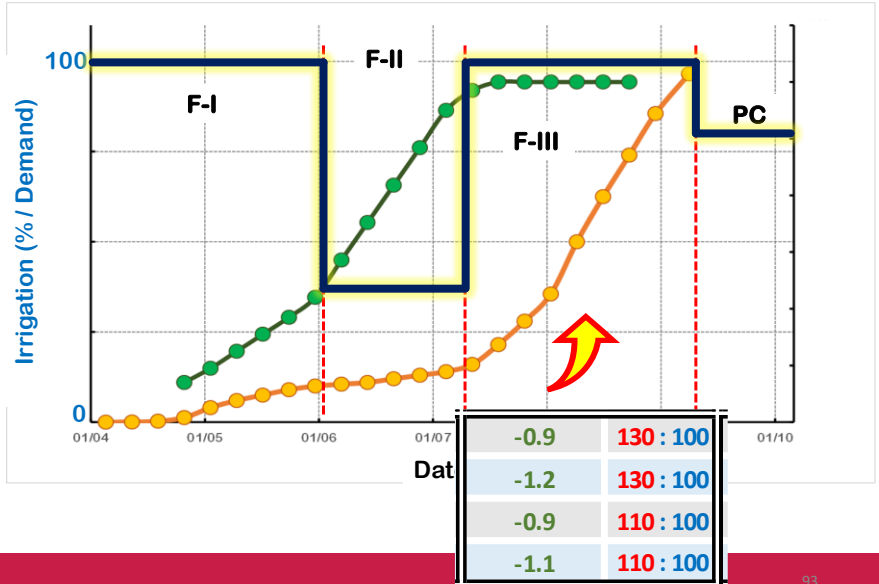
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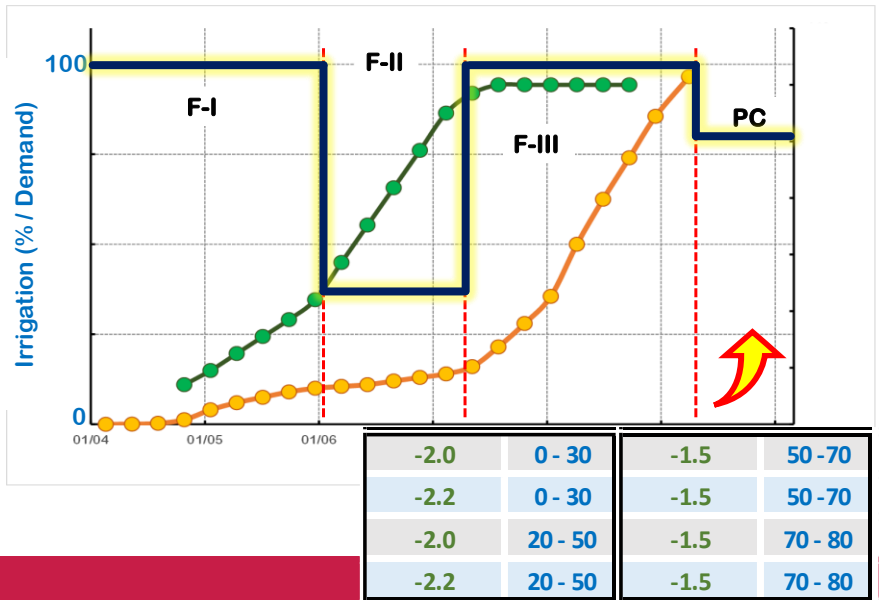
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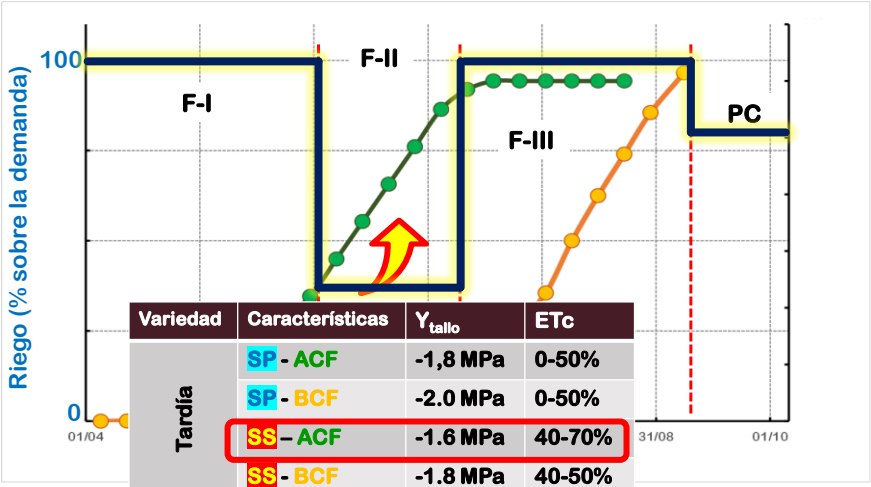


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## “Uso eficiente del agua en cultivos frutales”

Murcia, 24 de Noviembre de 2023

Variedad	Características	Y <sub>tallo</sub>	ETc
<b>Tardía</b>	SF - ACF	-1,8 MPa	0-50%
	SF - BCF	-2.0 MPa	0-50%
	SS - ACF	-1.6 MPa	40-70%
	SS - BCF	-1.8 MPa	40-50%

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[ ©JGirona/IRTA(2023) ]

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## “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”

# REGULATED DEFICIT IRRIGATION

APPLE TREE

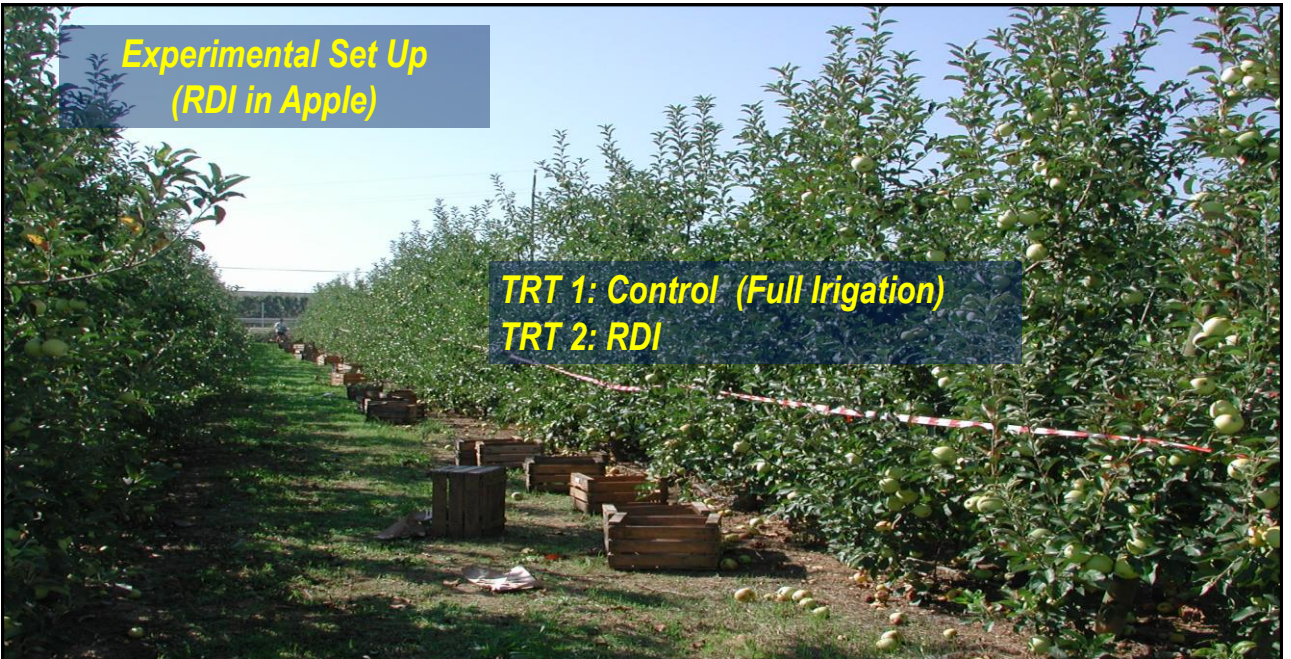
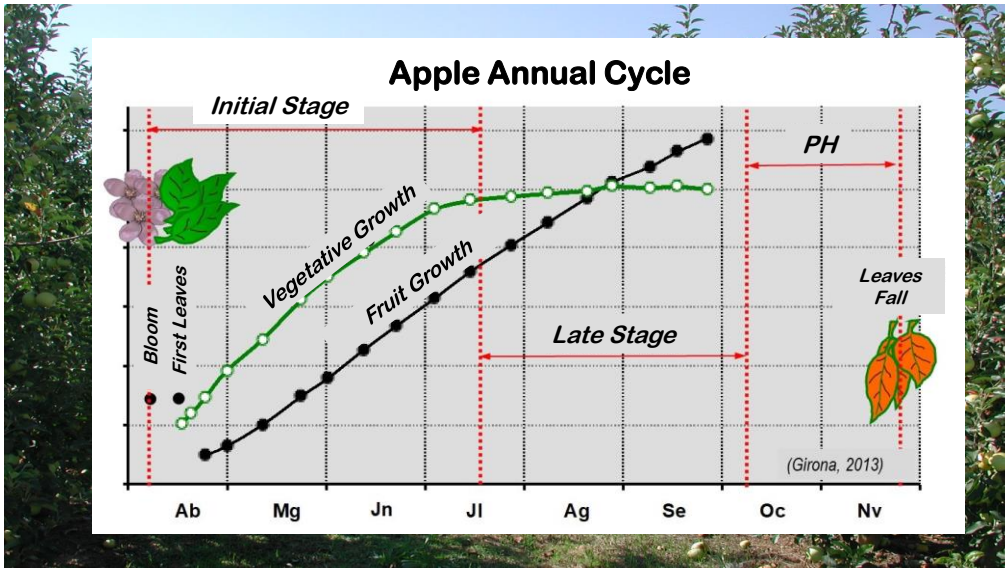


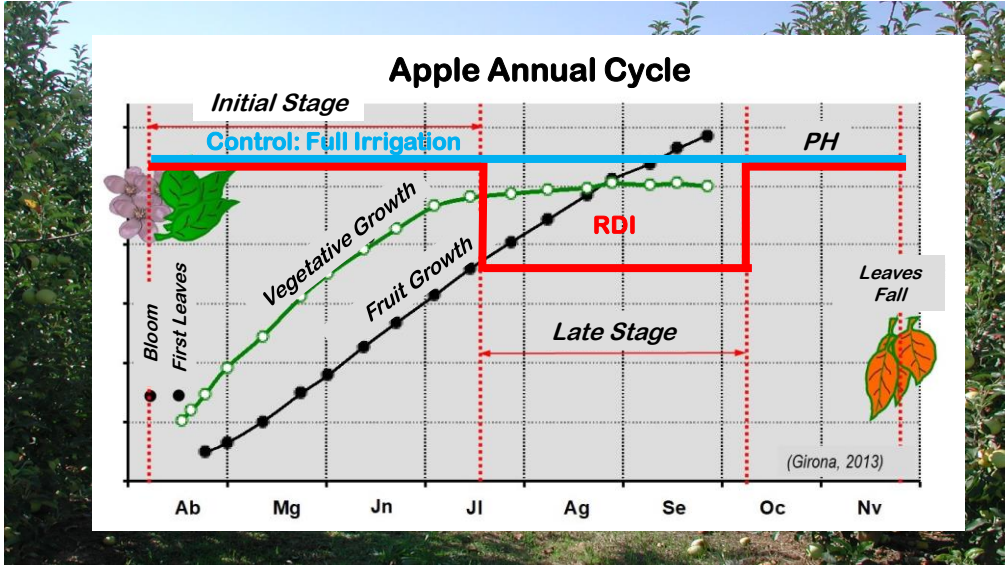


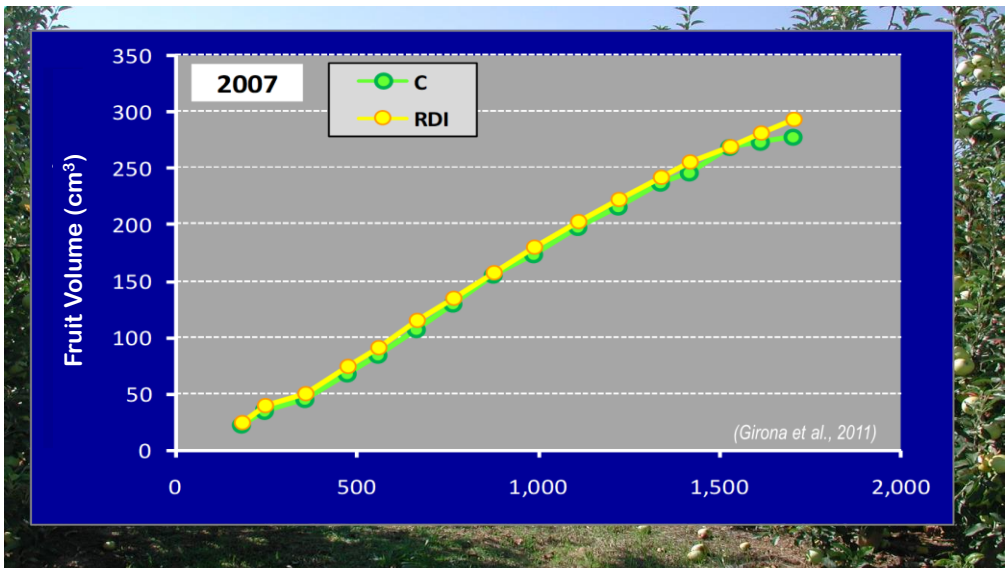
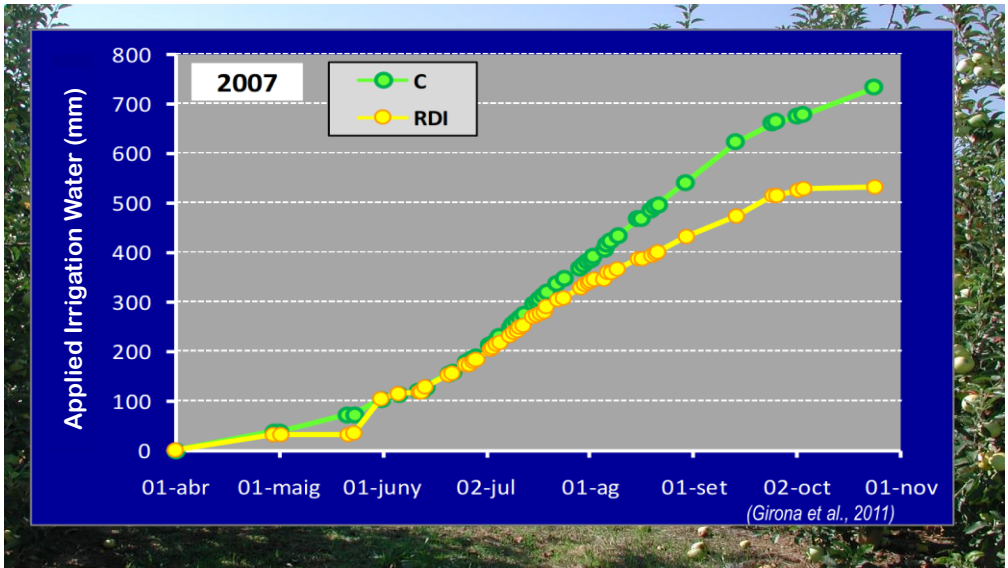

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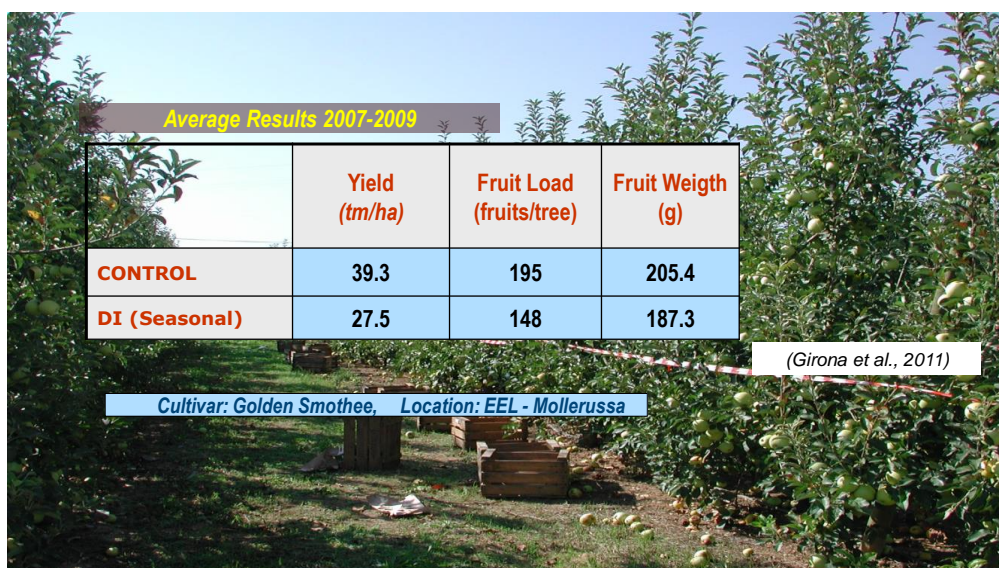
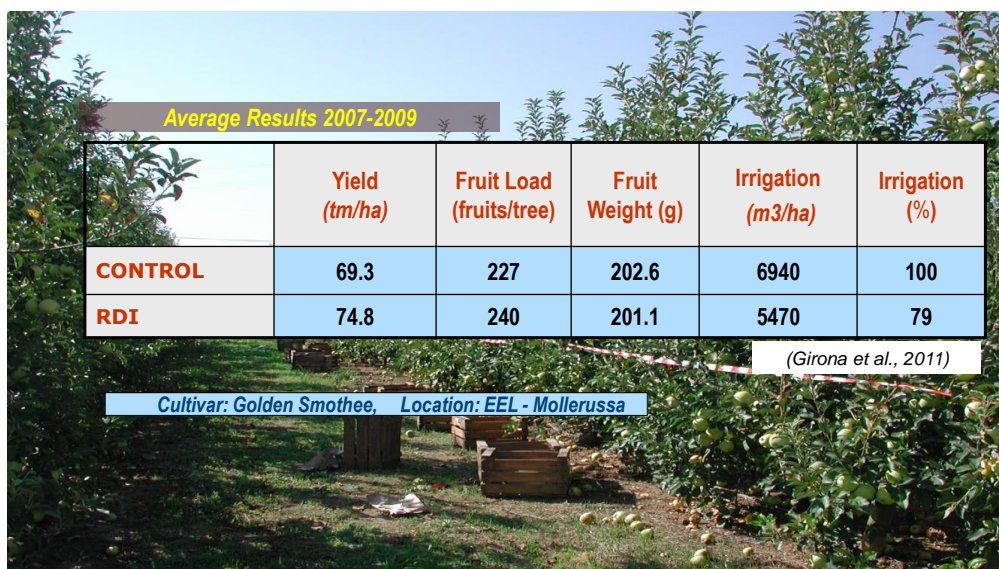
96











**Average Results 2007-2009**

	Yield (tm/ha)	Fruit Load (fruits/tree)	Fruit Weight (g)
<b>CONTROL</b>	39.3	195	205.4
<b>DI (Seasonal)</b>	27.5	148	187.3
<b>CONTROL</b>	41.7	173	243.2
<b>RDI</b>	48.5	210	233.8

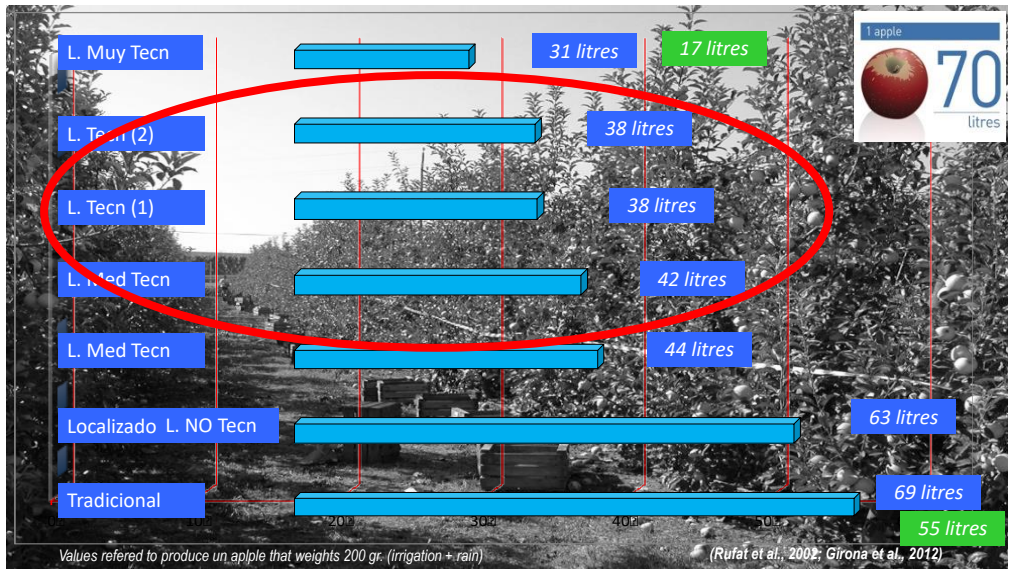
*Cultivar: Golden Smothee, Location: EEL - Mollerussa*

*(Girona et al., 2011)*

# The Climate Change

*Less Water to Hydrate our Crops*

*Efficiency*

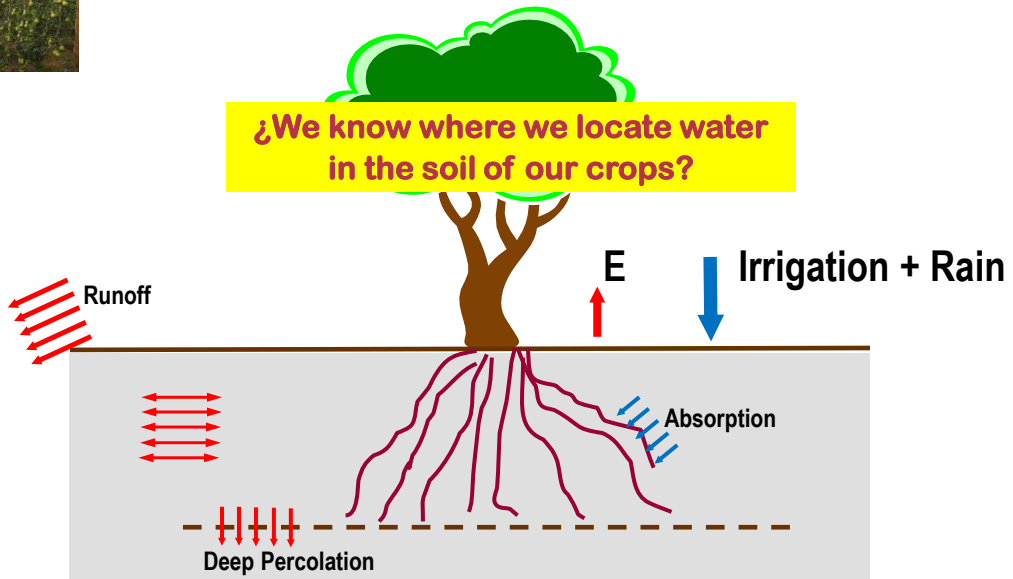


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### “Efficient use of water in fruit crops”



¿We know where we locate water in the soil of our crops?



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**48. Bundessteinobstseminar**  
11. - 14.12.2023



Steinobst bahnt sich einen  
Weg in die Zukunft!



## “Bewässerung im Steinobst bei zunehmender Wasserknappheit - Ressourcenschonende Strategien aus Spanien”

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**Dr. Joan Girona**

**IRTA** – Programm zur effizienten Wassernutzung in der Landwirtschaft

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Generalitat  
de Catalunya

**IRTA**

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