

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: Center Pivots (existing)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The most important aspect of irrigation water management is properly evaluating and monitoring the available soil moisture for the particular crop. The feel and appearance method will be used for determining soil moisture and when irrigation is needed. See attached feel and appearance worksheets.

The system is designed to provide irrigation water for the crops in fields 1-12, 16-23, 26-28, 34-37. The irrigation pump will provide the rate of water needed to irrigate for consumptive use. The 250 gpm effluent pump will be used in tandem with each freshwater well pump for those fields receiving a combination of freshwater and effluent.

Planned crop yields can be obtained with minimal quantities of irrigation water. Irrigation should, as a minimum, be applied at the critical periods for the planned crops which vary by crop. See the Irrigation Guide Florida Supplement provided in this Appendix. Overall, prior to planting crops, or soon thereafter, the 12 inch root zone should be brought up to field capacity. If operated properly, supplemental irrigation can result in moderate crop production. The system should be managed as much as possible to maintain a high moisture level in the root zone. This will ensure that moisture is available if a drought begins.

For planned crop yield, during the critical irrigation period, irrigation should commence when the available soil moisture drops below the MAD and should continue until the soil reaches field capacity. Refer to the Operation and Maintenance Plan for the sprayfield system for additional information and guidance.

The irrigation system should be checked periodically to ensure proper operation of the pump, pipeline, and sprinklers. Some puddling may occur during system operation. If significant puddling or runoff occurs, the system should be operated at the fastest speed available and the frequency of irrigation increased.

Check the condition of the crop to ensure that growth is occurring and that the crop looks consistent in color and height to determine adequacy and uniformity of irrigation. If application is not uniform, a system evaluation should be performed.

If there is change in the soil moisture monitoring method or irrigation method, the NRCS office in Wauchula, Florida, should be contacted.