



Estimating the economic return on irrigation

To use the tool, simply add expected crops prices and yields into the spread sheet, along with irrigation costs/mm/ha for your farm and the relative yield drop figures, which are supplied. The tool will automatically calculate the net value of irrigation applied/ha for different crops, helping you prioritise irrigation decisions when water supply may be limited.

In the example below, the net value of irrigation applied/ha suggests that if you had to choose between irrigating a ryegrass seed crop or a wheat crop, you would get a great economic return by putting the water on the wheat.

Irrigation Costing Calculation Sheet				
Relative Yield Drop (RYD)				
	RYD of potential yield for each mm of irrigation beyond the critical deficit			
	Brassica seed	0.33%		
	Wheat, barley, peas	0.25%		
	Carrot seed	0.22%		
	Ryegrass seed	0.14%		
	Oats, maize, sweet corn, potatoes	0.10%		
	Insert your farm figures into boxes in red			
		Crop 1	Crop 2	Crop 3
		Ryegrass	Wheat	
	Expected yield (t/ha)	2.2	13	
	Irrigation applied (mm)	50	50	
	Relative yield drop (copy and paste RYD from ab	0.14%	0.25%	
	Expected price to receive (\$/t)	2200	300	
	Cost of irrigation (\$/mm/ha)	2	2	
	Value of irrigation (\$/ha)	338.8	487.5	
	Cost of total irrigation applied (\$/ha)	100	100	
	Net value of irrigation applied (\$/ha)	238.8	387.5	

