

**RAINFALL, PONDING AND FLOOD IRRIGATION - THEIR  
IMPORTANCE TO RICE GROWING IN THE ADELAIDE RIVER AREA**

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# **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

## **THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES IS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

### **Definition:**

Sustainable agriculture is the use of practices and systems which maintain or enhance:

- the economic viability of agricultural production:
- the natural resource base: and
- other ecosystems which are influenced by agricultural activities.

### **Principles:**

1. Agricultural productivity is sustained or enhanced over the long term.
2. Adverse impacts on the natural resource base of agricultural and associated ecosystems are ameliorated, minimised or avoided.
3. Harmful residues resulting from the use of chemicals for agriculture are minimised.
4. The nett social benefit (in both dollar and non-dollar terms) derived from agriculture is maximised.
5. Agricultural systems are sufficiently flexible to manage risks associated with the vagaries of climate and markets.

## **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

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## FLOOD IRRIGATION OF RICE IN THE ADELAIDE RIVER AREA

### 1. INTRODUCTION

It is now recognised that rainfall in the Top End is not as reliable as previously thought, for the purpose of dryland farming. (Mollah 1986) Cropping experience over the past few years has shown that dry periods during the growing season and early finishes to the wet season are major causes of poor crop performance or crop failure.

Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of this bulletin examine historical rainfall data from the main rice growing area. It presents some basic summaries of rainfall data which should help the reader to analyse the effect of rain, or lack of it, on rice yields. Particularly, for those in the industry or closely associated with it, it is possible to compare the few seasons of cropping experience to the previous seasons for which rainfall data is available. Section 3.3 presents the results of modelling soil moisture for different planting times and in the presence or absence of water control structures. This section presents some important conclusions for the rice industry. Chapters 4 and 5 examine the economics of irrigation and water control structures for rice growing.

#### 1.1 Background of the Rice Industry

The rice industry in the NT re-emerged in the early 80's in the upper Adelaide River area following the demise of rice growing at Humpty Doo in the early 1960's. Table 1 shows the area, production and yield for the seasons since the industry restarted in the upper Adelaide River area.

Table 1: Production statistics for the rice industry  
1983/84 - 1987/88

	Area (ha)	Production (tonnes)	Yield (t/ha)
1983/84	63	195	3.10
1984/85	190	350	1.84
1985/86	305	526	1.72
1986/87	294	133	0.45
1987/88	401	201	0.50

Only in the first year were average yields reasonable, though it should be noted that a significant proportion of the crop has been sown on a low input basis which would be expected to show marked variation in yield depending on seasonal conditions.

Although the above period of experience included some abnormally dry years it is apparent now that in most years dry periods can be expected which will stress crops during the growing season. Even contour banks or laser levelling of rice bays in conjunction with banking is not sufficient to remove the crop from the vagaries of the weather.

Given the severe effect of the weather in recent years on yields and the need of grain users for a stable source of grain supply it seems appropriate to investigate the economics of rice irrigation.

## 2. EFFECTS OF WATER STRESS ON RICE

The rice plant is able to grow and produce grain over a diverse range of environments, from flooded river deltas to upland areas. This range of environments is far larger than most other dryland grain crops can tolerate.

Throughout the world's rice growing areas there are a range of cultural practices under which the crop is grown. These can be broadly classified into the following:

- . Deep Water; water height can be as high as six metres (requires special varieties of rice).
- . Irrigated; water height (10-15cm) and time of flooding is controlled by the grower.
- . Rainfed; water height and control is dependent on the amount of rainfall during the growing season and the presence or lack of water control structures.
- . Upland; no flooding occurs and the crop is dependent on rainfall that falls during the growing season.

Despite the ability of the rice plant to grow over a large range of moisture environments, it is most suited to a flooded or saturated environment and is at a disadvantage in dry conditions compared to other grain crops. The rice plant possesses characters which place it in a distinct disadvantage under dry conditions, such as:

- Rice has a shallow root system. Its roots prefer to extract water from shallow soil depths and cannot efficiently extract water from greater soil depths despite the presence of roots. This is due to the high resistance to water flow in rice roots.

- There is little resistance to water flow out of the plant through the leaves. The plant is a poor conserver of water. As the soil can no longer provide sufficient moisture for the plant's needs, plant growth slows down rapidly. This also makes the crop susceptible to competing weed growth.

The effects of soil water deficits on rice are dependent on the severity of stress, duration of stress and at what point in the life cycle of the plant stress occurs. The life cycle of the rice plant can be conveniently split into four distinct phases. The effects of water stress on rice are best dealt with by referring to the various growth stages.

Emergence (from seeding to emergence of the seedling, duration approximately 5-7 days) Soil moisture stress following sowing of rice seed can be a problem if there is sufficient moisture at sowing to allow the germination process to begin, but insufficient moisture to allow the developing root system to contact moist soil. Seed germinating into a hot dry environment will rapidly dehydrate and die.

Vegetative (from emergence to formation of the reproductive apex i.e. panicle initiation, duration approximately 50-60 days) During this time the plant produces its tillers. Under favourable conditions, the rice crop develops rapidly by the development of new leaves and tillers. Moisture stress at this stage affects leaf expansion and development, reduces tiller numbers and retards crop growth generally. The end result is a sparse crop with poor canopy development. Yield potential is lowered directly by a reduction in the number of tillers able to produce panicles (heads) and indirectly by competition from weeds which readily proliferate under the dry conditions.

Reproductive (from panicle initiation to flowering i.e. just after panicle emergence, duration approximately 25-30 days) During this time the size of the panicle (head) is determined. Stress during this stage can severely effect yield. The most crucial stage is during pollen development, near the end of the phase. Stress at this stage renders the plant infertile. The reduction in potential yield will depend on the severity and length of the stress period.

Grain Filling (from flowering to maturity (for stockfeed rice 14% moisture), duration approximately 30 days) Shortly after fertilization of the florets (flowers) the grain begins to fill. Severe stress at this stage will result in pinched grains. However, mild water stress will not have a marked effect on yield, particularly if the plant has been grown under favourable conditions prior to this stage.

### 3. RAINFALL, SOIL MOISTURE AND CROP STRESS

#### 3.1 Rainfall

Rainfall data has been collected at Tortilla Flats Research Farm since 1960. This data has been transferred to a computer database which has enabled manipulation of the data to provide more readily usable information.

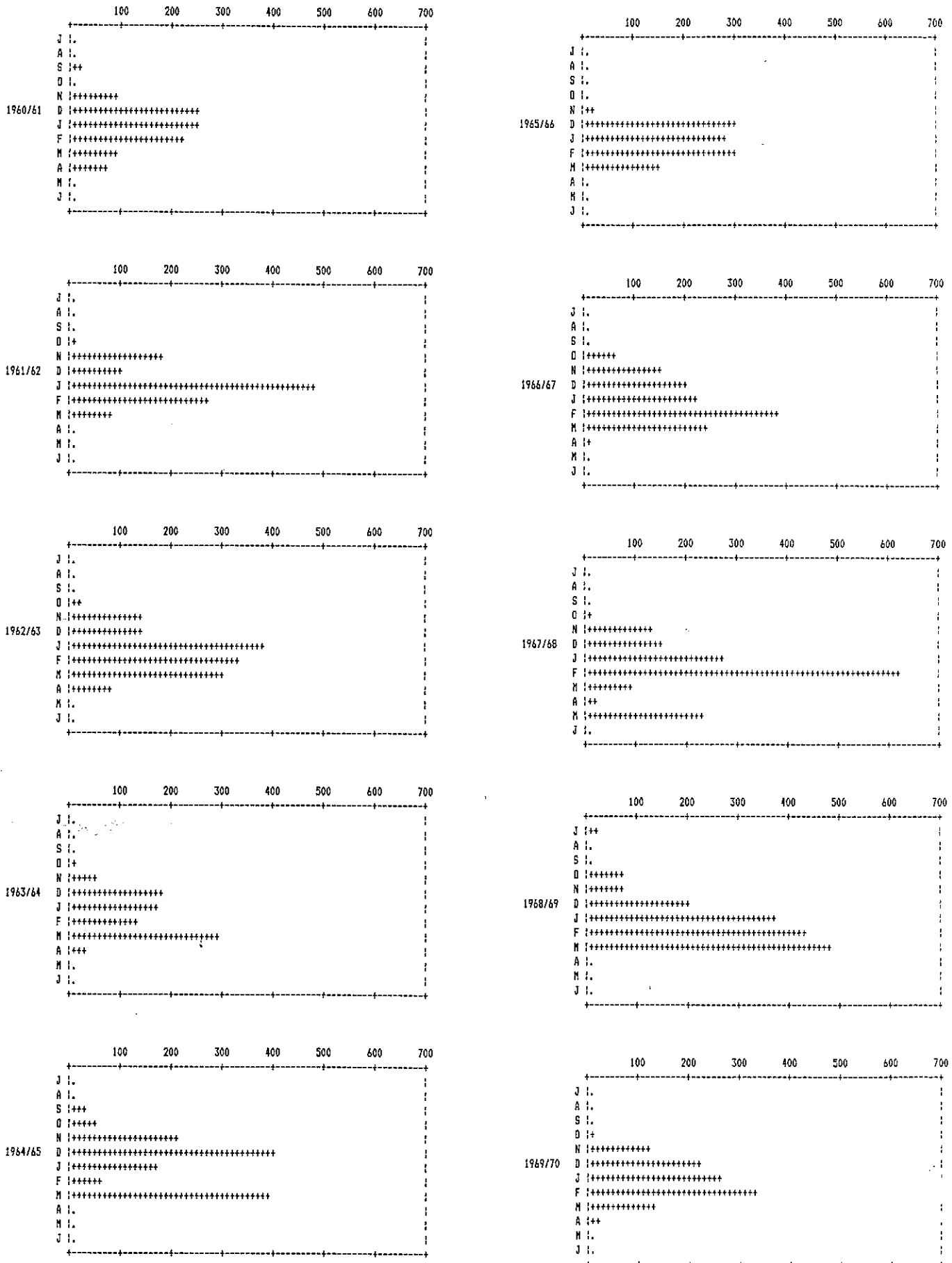
Table 2 shows a summary of monthly rainfall for the years 1960-61 to 1987-88 plus the maximum, minimum and average observations. Also included for the statistically minded are standard deviations and coefficients of variation. Figure 1 shows graphic representations of monthly rainfall in each year and average monthly rainfall. As a rough guide months with rainfall below potential evapo-transpiration (210-220 millimeters) would have moisture stress problems but these problems can also occur in higher rainfall months where there is poor rainfall distribution. Complete rainfall data for Tortilla Flats is presented in Appendix 1.

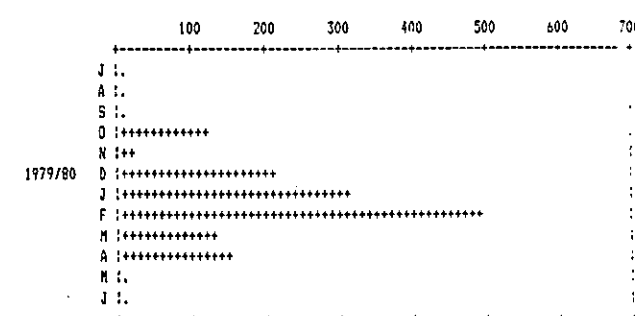
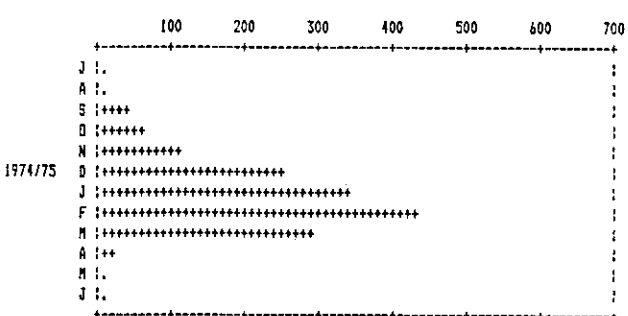
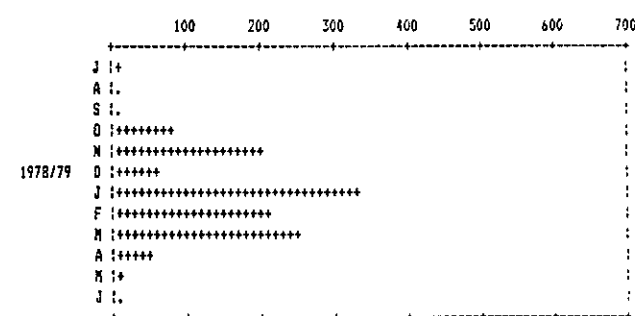
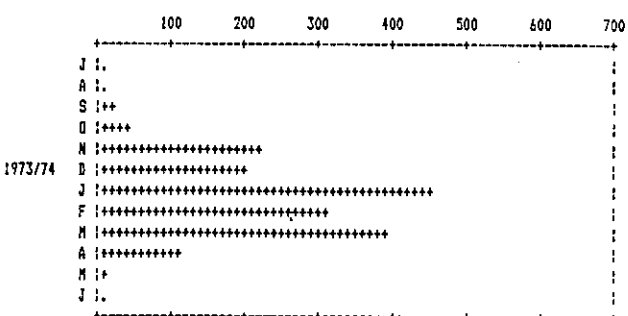
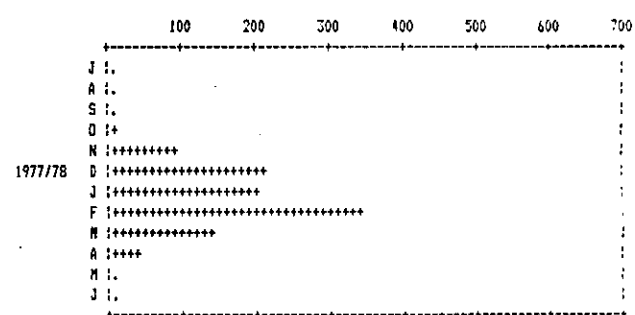
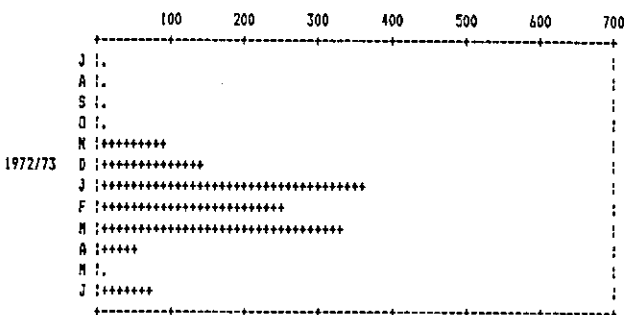
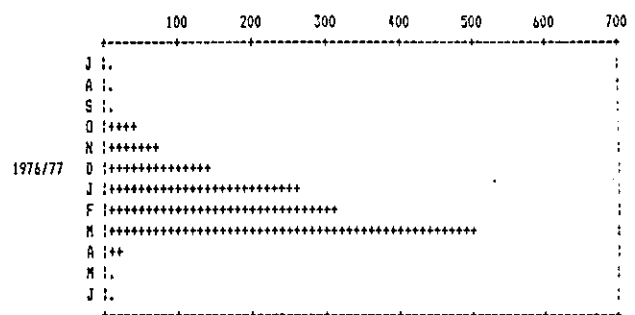
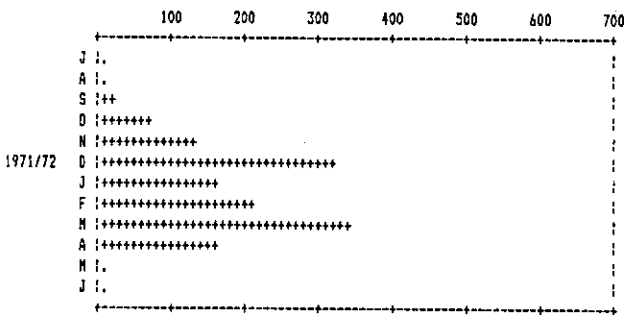
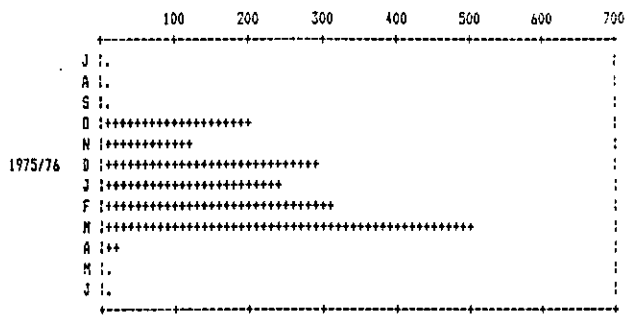
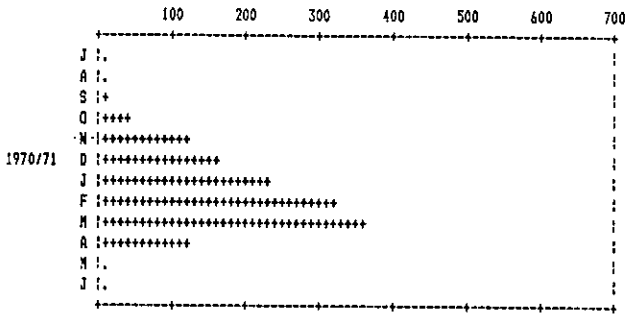


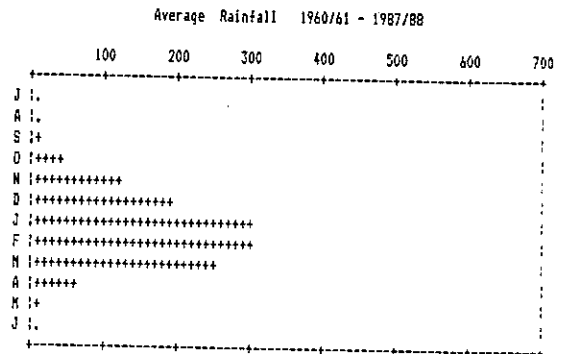
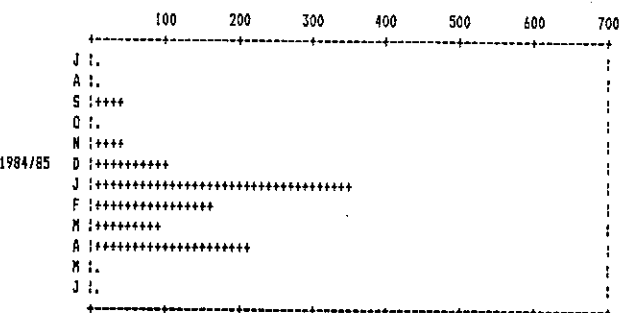
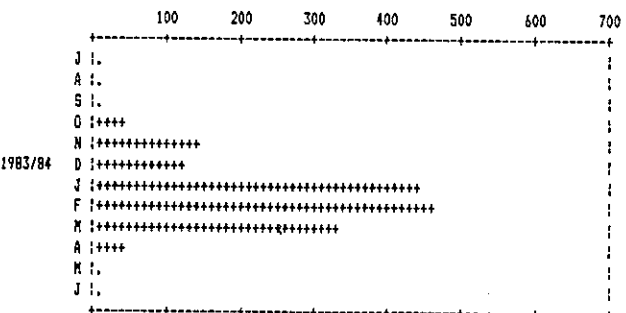
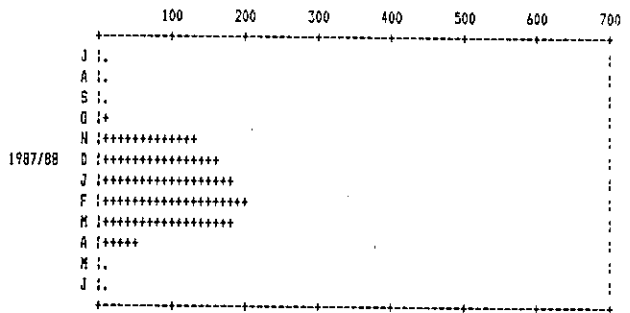
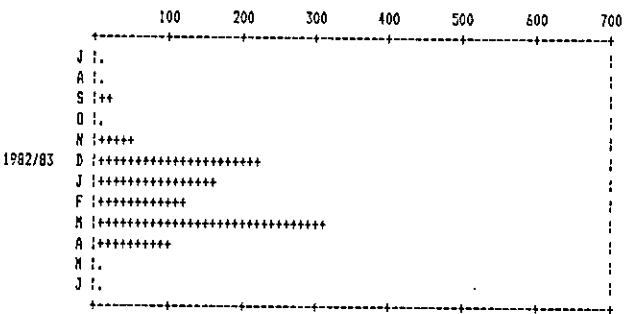
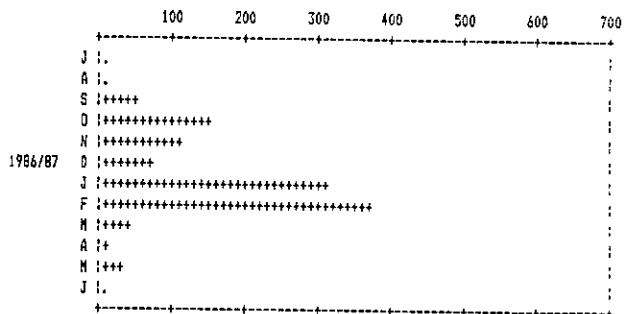
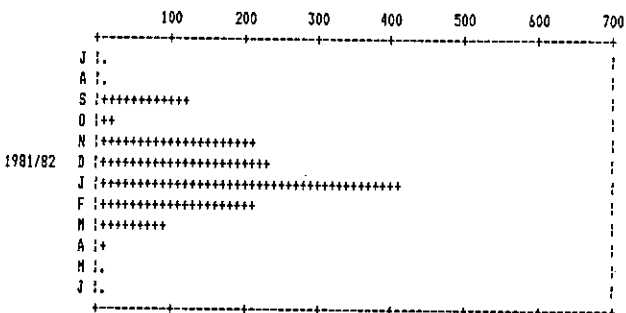
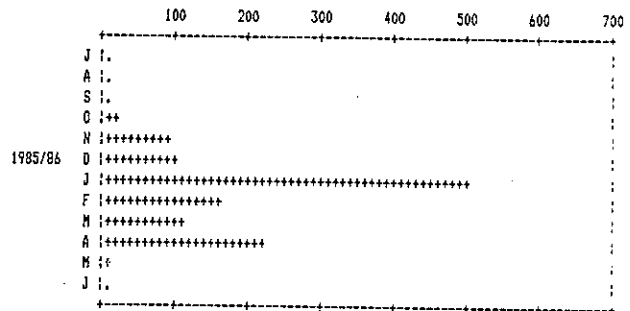
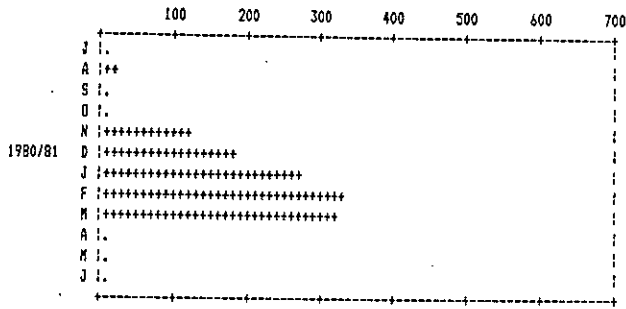
Table 2: Summary of monthly rainfall at Tortilla Flats  
Research Farm for the seasons 1960/61 to 1987/88

SEASON	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
60 / 61	0.0	0.0	25.9	6.6	95.3	253.0	254.3	221.0	94.2	76.5	0.0	0.0
61 / 62	0.0	0.0	0.8	17.3	188.5	100.8	483.9	277.4	86.9	2.0	0.0	0.0
62 / 63	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.1	141.5	147.8	388.4	336.0	302.5	84.1	0.0	0.5
63 / 64	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.8	58.9	181.9	177.0	138.4	297.4	34.3	4.8	8.4
64 / 65	0.0	0.0	36.1	55.4	219.5	403.4	170.7	69.6	393.4	0.0	3.8	2.8
65 / 66	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	25.4	302.3	280.2	309.1	153.7	2.5	0.0	2.5
66 / 67	0.0	0.0	3.0	62.0	150.4	209.8	226.6	382.0	241.8	11.7	0.0	0.0
67 / 68	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.2	137.4	151.4	270.3	629.4	93.2	26.4	237.2	0.0
68 / 69	23.9	0.0	1.3	74.4	72.6	205.7	379.5	430.8	484.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
69 / 70	2.3	0.0	0.0	19.8	124.7	220.2	269.7	333.2	134.4	20.8	0.0	0.0
70 / 71	0.0	0.0	13.2	40.4	120.9	163.3	231.4	322.1	367.8	124.7	0.0	0.0
71 / 72	0.0	2.5	28.2	70.1	138.4	326.6	160.0	219.7	344.7	169.4	0.0	0.0
72 / 73	0.0	0.0	5.1	9.7	90.9	141.0	361.2	255.8	331.2	59.2	0.0	76.2
73 / 74	0.0	0.0	28.4	40.4	220.2	204.2	452.9	310.4	390.4	114.3	15.2	0.0
74 / 75	0.0	3.0	40.6	69.9	118.6	254.5	348.7	432.6	299.7	27.7	0.0	0.0
75 / 76	0.0	1.0	0.6	203.3	127.5	295.1	244.7	317.8	507.9	26.4	0.0	0.0
76 / 77	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	79.6	146.0	269.6	310.4	507.6	29.2	6.6	0.0
77 / 78	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.9	95.0	217.0	209.3	347.3	144.4	46.3	7.2	0.0
78 / 79	11.2	0.0	3.8	82.0	203.3	69.2	338.4	216.6	251.8	50.6	17.0	0.0
79 / 80	0.0	0.0	0.0	123.8	27.2	213.4	315.0	497.4	139.7	153.1	0.0	0.0
80 / 81	0.0	25.0	0.0	5.2	123.9	182.9	271.5	330.4	325.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
81 / 82	0.0	0.0	128.4	26.8	210.4	237.2	417.8	213.2	99.5	12.0	0.0	0.0
82 / 83	0.0	1.2	28.0	0.0	55.2	228.2	169.0	123.1	310.5	102.0	0.0	0.0
83 / 84	0.0	0.0	0.0	49.3	141.9	125.1	443.0	464.7	333.6	46.0	0.0	0.0
84 / 85	0.0	1.5	48.3	0.5	42.5	104.0	355.5	166.5	94.5	212.0	0.0	0.0
85 / 86	0.0	0.0	3.0	28.1	94.4	107.0	501.0	169.0	117.0	228.0	10.0	0.0
86 / 87	0.0	0.0	51.0	151.1	118.5	79.1	312.4	373.5	48.8	15.0	39.0	0.0
87 / 88	0.0	0.0	3.0	12.5	131.9	162.6	189.6	201.8	185.1	50.6	0.0	0.0
MAXIMUM	23.9	25.0	128.4	203.3	220.2	403.4	501.0	629.4	507.9	228.0	237.2	76.2
MINIMUM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.4	69.2	160.0	69.6	48.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
AVERAGE	1.3	1.2	16.0	45.0	119.8	194.0	303.3	300.0	252.9	61.6	12.2	3.2
STANDARD DEVIATION	4.9	4.7	27.5	48.4	54.6	78.1	99.1	123.7	137.7	64.6	44.9	14.4
COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION (%)	368	386	172	108	46	40	33	41	54	105	369	446

Figure 1: Graphic representation of monthly rainfall at Tortilla Flats Research Farm for the seasons 1960/61 to 1987/88 and average monthly rainfall







### 3.2 Rainfall Deciles

Another method to compare the variation of rainfall for a large number of years is to categorize rainfall into deciles. This basically means that rainfall (weekly, monthly, yearly, etc) is divided up into the bottom ten percent of observations (decile 1), the next ten percent of observations (decile 2) and so on until the top 10% of observations (decile 10). This method is most useful where there is a large number of observations, (say 100 or more) but is still useful where there are 28 observations such as at Tortilla Flats. The advantage of using deciles is that they give an indication of the probability of rainfall exceeding or being less than a particular amount (eg evapo-transpiration). They also show where a particular month of rainfall ranks in terms of its likelihood of being exceeded or not. Table 3 shows the monthly rainfall and the decile numbers for the years 1960-61 to 1987-88.

Decile numbers for May to September are not shown as no rainfall fell during these months in most years. In such situations decile numbers have no meaning.

If 210 mm is taken as being the minimum monthly rainfall required to avoid moisture stress problems (and this is a rough rule, especially where there are no water control structures) then Table 2 shows that the probability of exceeding this level is:

43% in December  
77% in January  
77% in February  
57% in March  
10% in April

On the face of it, January and February appear fairly reliable but the end of the rice cropping season is not quite so good. From a cropping point of view, monthly deciles still have some flaws because they do not indicate distribution of rainfall. A good month of rainfall with a high decile number may have had most of the rainfall at the beginning or end of the month but very little at other times.

Table 3: Decile numbers and monthly rainfall for the seasons 1960/61 to 1987/88

DECILE NUMBERS FOR THE YEARS 1960/61 TO 1987/88

DECILE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>OCTOBER</b>										
Year	82 84	65 80 60	72 77 67	87 63 61	69 62 81	85 70 73	83 76 64	66 74 71	68 78 79	86 75
	83 85	66 81 61	73 78 68	88 64 62	70 63 82	86 71 74	84 77 65	67 75 72	69 79 80	87 76
Rainfall(mm)	0 1	2 5 7	10 11 12	13 17 17	20 21 27	28 40 40	49 50 55	62 70 70	74 82 124	151 203
<b>NOVEMBER</b>										
Year	65 79	84 82 63	68 76 72	85 77 60	86 74 70	80 69 75	87 67 71	62 83 66	61 78 81	64 73
	66 80	85 83 64	69 77 73	86 78 61	87 75 71	81 70 76	88 68 72	63 84 67	62 79 82	65 74
Rainfall(mm)	25 27	43 55 59	73 80 91	94 95 95	119 119 121	124 125 128	132 137 138	141 142 150	188 203 210	219 220
<b>DECEMBER</b>										
Year	78 86	61 84 85	83 73 76	62 67 87	70 63 80	73 68 66	79 77 69	82 81 60	74 75 65	71 64
	79 87	62 85 86	84 73 77	63 68 88	71 64 81	74 69 67	80 78 70	83 82 61	75 76 66	72 65
Rainfall(mm)	69 79	101 104 107	125 141 146	148 151 163	163 182 183	204 206 210	213 217 220	228 237 253	255 295 302	327 403
<b>JANUARY</b>										
Year	71 82	64 63 87	77 66 70	75 60 76	69 67 80	65 86 79	78 74 84	72 68 62	81 83 73	61 85
	72 83	65 64 88	78 67 71	76 61 77	70 68 81	66 87 80	79 75 85	73 69 63	82 84 74	62 86
Rainfall(mm)	160 169	171 177 190	209 227 231	245 254 270	270 270 272	280 312 315	338 349 356	361 379 388	418 443 453	484 501
<b>FEBRUARY</b>										
Year	64 82	63 84 85	87 81 78	71 60 72	61 65 73	76 75 70	80 69 62	77 86 66	68 74 83	79 67
	65 83	64 85 86	88 82 79	72 61 73	62 66 74	77 76 71	81 70 63	78 87 67	69 75 84	80 68
Rainfall(mm)	70 123	138 167 169	202 213 217	220 221 256	277 309 310	310 318 322	330 333 336	347 374 382	431 433 465	497 629
<b>MARCH</b>										
Year	86 61	67 60 84	81 85 69	79 77 65	87 66 78	63 74 62	82 80 72	83 71 70	73 64 68	76 75
	87 62	68 61 85	82 86 70	80 78 66	88 67 79	64 75 63	83 81 73	84 72 71	74 65 69	77 76
Rainfall(mm)	49 87	93 94 95	99 117 134	140 144 154	185 242 252	297 300 303	311 325 331	334 345 368	390 393 485	508 508
<b>APRIL</b>										
Year	80 68	64 61 65	66 81 86	69 75 67	74 76 63	83 77 78	87 72 60	62 82 73	70 79 71	84 85
	81 69	65 62 66	67 82 87	70 76 68	75 77 64	84 78 79	88 73 61	63 83 74	71 80 72	85 86
Rainfall(mm)	0 0	0 2 3	12 12 15	21 26 26	28 29 34	46 46 51	51 59 76	84 102 114	125 153 169	212 228

50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87  
 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88

OCTOBER	2	4	5	4	7	2	8	3	9	5	6	8	3	6	8	10	7	3	9	9	2	5	1	7	1	6	10	4
NOVEMBER	4	9	8	2	10	1	8	7	3	6	5	7	3	10	5	6	3	4	9	1	6	9	2	8	2	4	5	7
DECEMBER	8	2	4	5	10	9	6	4	6	7	5	10	3	6	9	9	3	7	1	7	5	8	8	3	2	2	1	4
JANUARY	4	10	8	2	2	6	3	5	8	5	3	1	8	9	7	4	4	3	7	6	5	9	1	9	7	10	6	2
FEBRUARY	4	5	7	2	1	5	8	10	9	7	6	4	4	5	9	6	6	8	3	10	7	3	1	9	2	2	8	3
MARCH	2	1	6	6	9	4	5	2	9	3	8	8	7	9	6	10	10	4	5	4	7	3	7	8	2	3	1	5
APRIL	7	2	8	5	2	2	3	4	1	4	9	9	7	8	5	4	5	6	6	9	1	3	8	6	10	10	3	7

### 3.3 Soil Moisture Simulation

The ideal way to interpret the effect of rainfall and other meteorological factors on crops is to develop and validate a computer program which will relate all of the relevant factors to crop yields. This sort of analysis has been done elsewhere but requires considerable resources. An alternative method (water balance) used here models soil moisture to determine periods of crop stress.

These basic assumptions incorporated into the model are:

- . The soil profile is 30cm deep and holds 60mm of available water.
- . Moisture stress is assumed to occur once available soil moisture drops below 20mm for a fully exploited soil profile.
- . Moisture stress occurs at higher levels of soil moisture availability when the roots of the rice plants are only partially exploiting the soil profile.
- . The average pan evaporation during the growing season is just over 5mm per day.
- . The crop factor for most of the growing season is 1.4 giving evapotranspiration rates of just over 7mm per day.
- . Ponding allows up to 100 millimetres of water to be ponded from day 30 giving total available moisture storage in and above the soil profile of 160mm. Between day 10 and day 30 intermediate amounts are allowed to be ponded.
- . There is no allowance for run-on of water which occurs in certain floodplain situations.

Theoretically, the model gives a good representation of soil moisture during most of the cropping cycle. The main weakness is in the first three weeks of crop growth when we do not fully understand the ability of a rice plant's roots to extract moisture from the soil, movement of moisture in the soil and evaporation from the soil surface. In any case set backs from moisture stress during this period (assuming no major loss of plant density) are considered less important than stress later in the crop cycle.

Nevertheless, construction of the model and using it for analysis has provided some useful insights for the rice cropping industry. Six scenarios are reported in this study. They include ponding of water to 100mm and no ponding, for three sowing dates (December 15, January 1 and January 20). Figures 2 and 3 show the six scenarios together for easy comparison. The scenarios are reproduced in a larger scale in Appendix 2.

These figures show that earlier sowing decreases the probability of stress at the end of the season markedly but at the expense of some increased stress earlier in the season. Ponding has a marked effect in reducing stress particularly in the reproductive and grain filling stages. The exception to this is for the January 20 sowing where ponding substantially reduced stress in the reproductive stage but there was still not enough moisture in most seasons for grain filling.

The diagrams show the variability in rainfall from season to season particularly the long dry spells within the growing season. The diagrams also show a characteristic that in dry seasons, falls of rain during dry spells are often small thus only breaking the period of stress for a few days. In such situations ponding on its own provides no advantage. The benefits of ponding come in periods when falls of around 50mm or more occur within a few days of each other and the excess rain would otherwise have run off.



Figure 2: Stress periods (—) during the growing season for rice shown on three dates without ponding

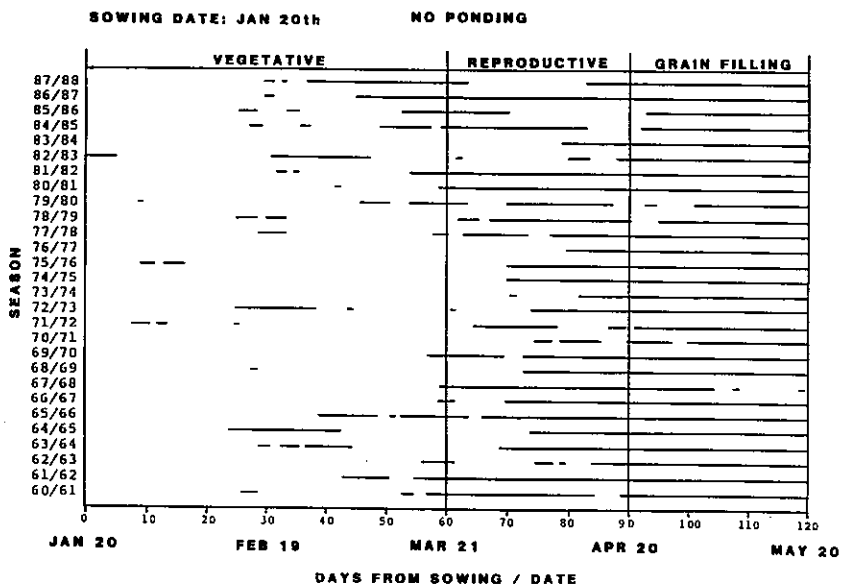
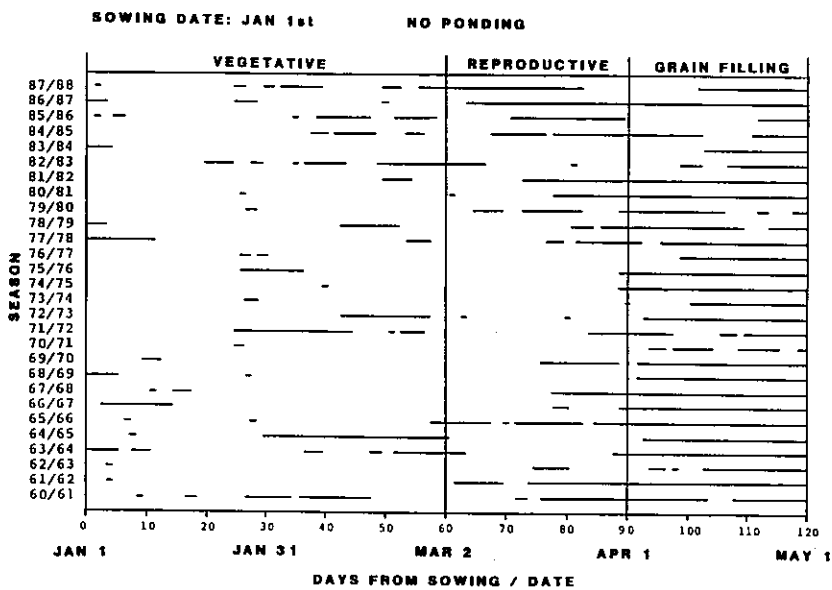
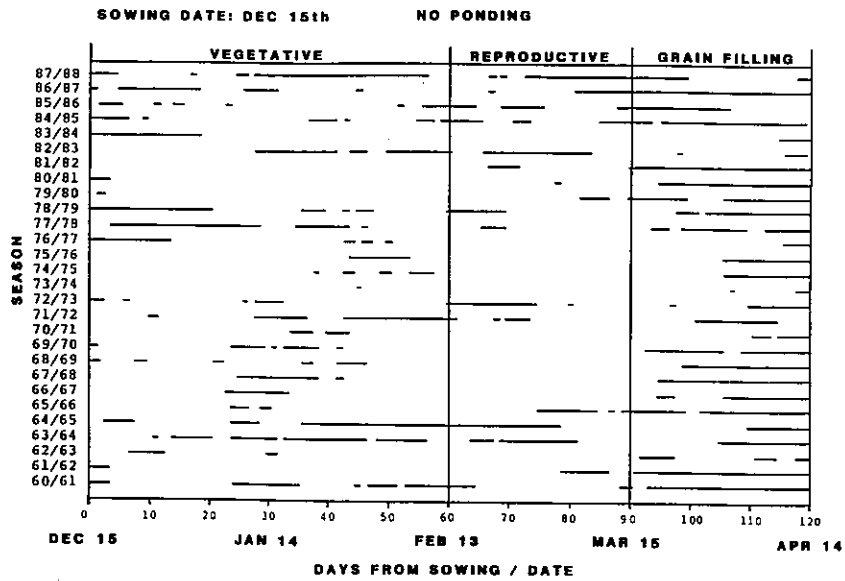
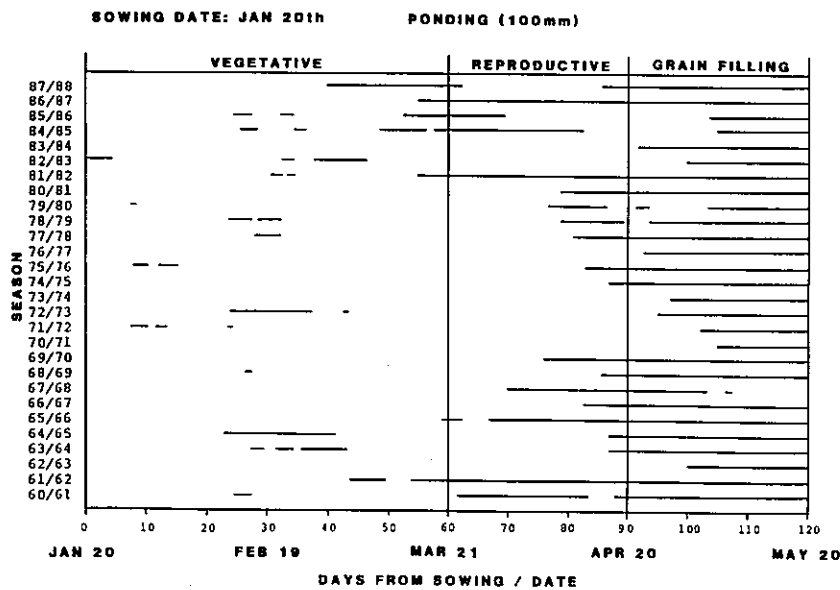
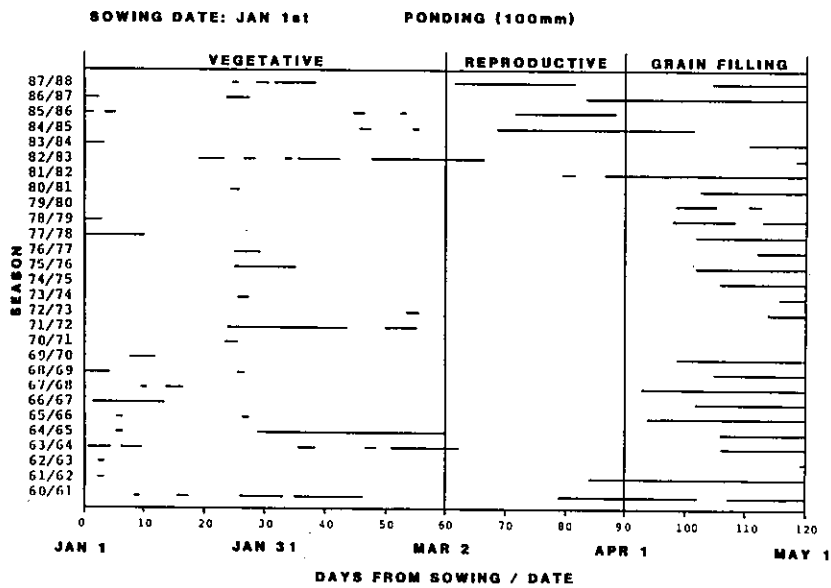
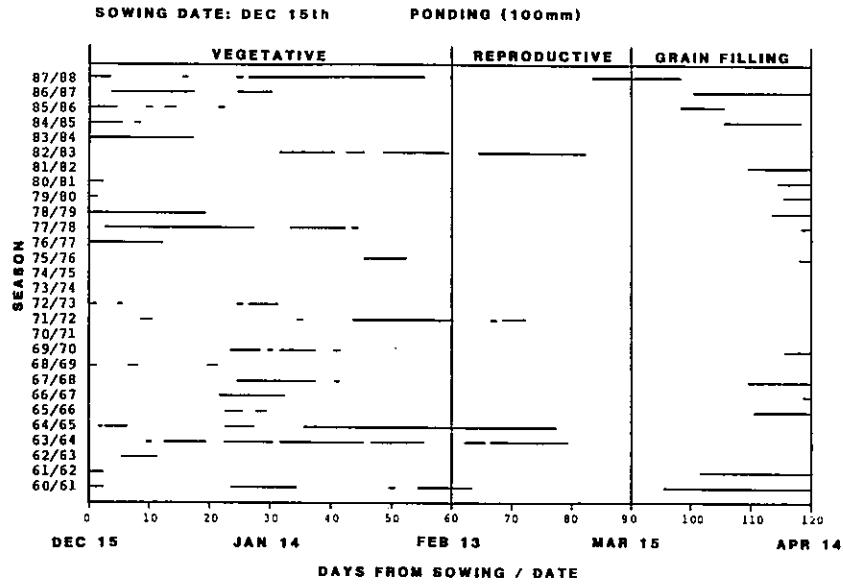


Figure 3: Stress periods (—) during the growing season for rice sown on three dates with ponding



An important point shown in the diagrams is that the 1983-84 season which is the first commercial season in the Upper Adelaide River area and the only season in which good average yields occurred, was the best season in the whole 28 year period for an unponded situation. This has probably coloured the industry's expectations, and as a result attitudes to water control structures, harvesting of water and irrigation.

Tables 4 and 5 reinforce the interpretation of figures 2 and 3. That is, earlier sowing dates reduce moisture stress at the end of the season while increasing moisture stress to a lesser extent at the beginning of the season. Also, ponding reduced stress markedly in the reproductive and grain filling stage but had a lesser effect in the vegetative stage.

Table 4: Percentage of years in which stress in each growth phase would severely affect rice yields.

<u>Vegetative/Reproductive/Grain Filling</u>			
Dec. 15			
No Ponding	43	25	54
Ponding	39	14	14
Jan. 1			
No Ponding	29	54	89
Ponding	18	21	36
Jan. 20			
No Ponding	25	86	100
Ponding	18	43	75

Table 5: Stress days as a percentage of total days for each growth phase for the years 1960/61 to 1987/88.

<u>Vegetative/Reproductive/Grain Filling</u>			
Dec. 15			
No Ponding	27	22	60
Ponding	22	8	18
Jan. 1			
No Ponding	18	36	86
Ponding	13	11	51
Jan. 20			
No Ponding	16	69	97
Ponding	10	35	86

#### 4. IRRIGATION OF RICE

Irrigation is seen as a possible answer to variable crop yields in the Top End but high capital cost is a major obstacle.

Flood irrigation of rice, however, shows promise in certain situations compared to irrigation of other crops. The reasons for this are:

- . lower capital costs for flood irrigation compared to centre pivots (which appear to be the best alternative on sandy and loamy soils)
- . lower pumping costs in situations where water is lifted low heads
- . lower pumping costs because water does not have to be pressurized for delivery through irrigation sprays or sprinklers
- . impervious sub-soils on floodplains which almost stop moisture loss via percolation
- . after emergence rice will grow in flooded conditions which enables up to 160mm of available water to be stored "in the field".

The main irrigation option considered here is pumping with a flood-lift pump from a river or billabong. Another possibility would be harvesting run-off from a nearby water course or areas adjacent to the rice paddies (eg the "keyline" method). If the latter alternative can supply gravity fed water then it would be the cheaper method.

##### 4.1 Benefits of Rice Irrigation

Irrigation of rice would enable:

1. Sowing at the optimal time (assuming rainfall does not make conditions too wet) or sowing over a longer period than rainfed conditions would allow, enabling a larger area to be sown for a given plant (machinery) size.
2. Reduced moisture stress from mid-season droughts (which affect tillering, panicle development and/or flowering).
3. Reduced moisture stress from late-season droughts (which affects grain filling).
4. Irrigation of crops after harvesting to produce a ratoon crop for hay or possibly grain.
5. Better utilization of nitrogen fertilizers by reducing losses via volatilization.

#### 4.2 Capital Costs

The capital items include:

- . pump
- . diesel motor or electric motor plus cost of connecting electricity
- . structures to support and house the pump and motor
- . delivery channels
- . laser levelling and banking of rice bays

Capital costs will vary considerably depending on the particular situation. The area to be irrigated is a major determinant of pump and motor size and hence costs. The cost of structures to support and house the pump and motor will depend on the latter's size and the engineering requirements of the pumping site. The length and cost of delivery channels will depend on area irrigated, physical layout of rice bays, topography, soil type and construction method. The cost of laser levelling will depend on slope for land, size of rice bays and soil type.

Laser levelling and banking are necessary to produce the best results from ponding water under rainfed conditions so may be in place already.

#### 4.3 Operating Costs

The major operating costs are fuel & lubricants, repairs & maintenance to the pump and motor, and repairs & maintenance to delivery channels. Fuel cost will depend on the area irrigated, water losses in delivery channels, number of irrigations per year and the vertical distance water has to be lifted to delivery channels.

The least obvious of these factors is water losses. Channels crossing levee or other sandy/loamy soils could lose up to one third of pumped water through percolation.

An interesting aspect in the following example is that repair and maintenance can cost more than the cost of fuel.

## 5. THE EXAMPLE

The following example has been formulated from experience in the Adelaide River area to illustrate the benefits and costs of irrigating rice.

The physical specifications for the example are:

Pump - type: centrifugal - floodlift  
- capacity: 300 litres/sec.

Motor - type: diesel  
- power rating 52kw  
- fuel consumption 13.5 litres/hr.

Delivery Channels - length 1 kilometre.

Irrigations - no. per season: 4  
- mm. per irrigation: 100 millimetres.

Percentage loss of water between pump and rice bays: 25%.

### Capital Costs

Pump	\$21 500
Diesel Motor	10 000
Shed, foundations & fuel tank	3 000
Delivery channels	2 000
Laser levelling 40ha, 2hrs/ha @\$40/hr	<u>\$ 3 200</u>
	\$39 700

A lower cost is possible if owner and family labour is solely used and only materials are purchased or if secondhand machinery is purchased.

### Irrigation Operating Costs: (per hectare)

Fuel 1.25 hr/ha @ 13.5 l/hr @ 30 c/l x 4 applications	20.25
Lubricants @ 5% of fuel cost	1.01
R&M pump and motor @ 3% pa	23.63
R&M delivery channels	<u>5.00</u>
	\$49.89 / ha

If we assume that fuel & lubricant costs plus 50% of repairs and maintenance costs vary directly with the number of irrigations then the formula for irrigation costs is \$21.26/ha plus \$7.16/ha/irrigation.

Table 6: Gross margin budget for rice - 1988

Enterprise Name: RICE		Region: Upper Adelaide River	
		Date: September 1988	
INCOME			\$/ha
Yield	3.5 t/ha @ \$185.00 /tonne		647.50
Other income: fertilizer subsidy	175 kg/ha @ \$95.00 /tonne		16.63
<b>A. TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>664.13</b>
VARIABLE COSTS			\$/ha
Land Preparation			
	1 laser levelling 1 ha/hr @ \$39.20 /hr (assume one third of area is levelled each year)		13.07
	2 ploughings 0.95 ha/hr @ \$10.22 /hr		21.64
	bank maintenance		9.05
Sowing			
	seed: 100 kg/ha @ \$200.00 /tonne		20.00
	sowing operation: 1.08 /ha @ \$9.32 /hr		8.63
Fertilizers			
	101 kg/ha of urea @ \$431.00 /tonne		43.53
	75 kg/ha of DAP + 2.5%Zn + 10%S @ \$622.00 /tonne		46.65
Application:			
	urea 1.26 ha/hr @ \$9.32 /hr (urea is drilled by combine, DAP is sown with seed)		7.39
Weed Control			
	6.0 L/ha of Stam @ \$6.50 /L		39.00
	2.0 L/ha of Saturn @ \$11.50 /L (for control of barnyard grass)		23.00
	aerial application: @ \$17.00 /ha		17.00
Pest Control			
	ammunition (for birds) @ \$9.00 /ha		9.00
Harvesting			
	contract harvester: 6.0 t/ha @ \$220.00 /hr		128.33
Marketing			
	cartage to depot: 3.5 t/ha @ \$15.00 /tonne		52.50
<b>B. TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS</b>			<b>438.79</b>
<b>C. GROSS MARGIN (A - B) PER HECTARE</b>			<b>225.34</b>

### 5.1 Cost and Returns from Irrigation

The benefits from irrigation are higher grain yield from the main crop and a higher hay yield and hay price from the ratoon crop. There is also the possible alternative of producing a ratoon grain crop plus hay but this option is not considered in the example budgets.

In terms of the grain crop alone a yield increase of less than half a tonne is required to cover the variable costs of irrigating. To assess the cost and returns from irrigation the 1988 gross margin budget for rice has been used as a basis. The budget shown in Table 6 is one in a series of crop gross margin budgets which are updated annually. This budget provides the basis for calculating the budgets summarised in Tables 7 and 8. The gross margin budget in Table 6 does not include income and variable costs for hay making which are quite important to rice growers.

Table 7 shows income, variable costs and gross margins for grain and hay production for four yield scenarios under rainfed conditions. This table illustrates the importance of hay production on rice farms.

Table 8 shows a summary of gross margin information for an irrigated rice crop and calculates the benefit from irrigation under four rainfed yield scenarios. The annual benefit from irrigation under most rainfed scenarios is substantial relative to the value of irrigation capital.



Table 7: Gross Margins for four rainfed yield scenarios

Grain

Yield (t/ha)	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
Gross Income (+ fertilizer freight rebate)	201.63	386.63	571.63	756.63
Variable Costs	309.62	361.29	412.96	464.63
-----				
Gross Margin (grain only)	-107.99	25.34	158.67	292.00

Hay

No. of Bales	115	150	190	230
Gross Income	345.00	450.00	570.00	690.00
Variable Costs	143.75	187.50	237.50	287.50
-----				
Gross margin (hay only)	201.25	262.50	332.50	402.50

Grain and Hay

Gross Margin	93.26	287.84	491.17	694.50
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Note: (1) On-farm hay price for rice straw is \$3/bale.

(2) Bale weight is 20kg.

(3) No allowance is made for labour.

Table 8: Summary of gross margin information to calculate the benefit from irrigation under four rainfall yield scenarios

	Yield Scenario (t/ha)			
Rainfed Yield	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
Irrigated Yield	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
<hr/>				
<u>Irrigated Crop</u>				
number of irrigations (100mm each)	4	3	2	1
Grain Income	756.63	756.63	756.63	756.63
Hay Income	980.00	980.00	980.00	980.00
	-----			
	1736.63	1736.63	1736.63	1736.63
Variable Costs				
- grain	464.63	464.63	464.63	464.63
- hay	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
- irrigation	49.04	41.45	33.86	26.27
	-----			
	864.52	857.36	850.20	843.04
Gross Margin (irrigated)	872.11	879.27	886.43	893.59
<hr/>				
Gross Margin (rainfed) (from Table 7)	93.26	287.84	491.17	694.50
Benefit from Irrigation (\$/ha)	778.85	591.43	395.26	199.09
(\$/40ha)	31 154	23 657	15 810	7 964

Note: (1) Hay yield from irrigated ratoon crop is 280 bales/hectare.

(2) On-farm price for rice hay is \$3.50/bale.

(3) Bale weight is 20kg.

(4) No allowance is made for labour.

## 5.2 Rate of Return on Irrigation Capital

The end product of the preceding analysis is an answer on how profitable is investment in irrigation structures and equipment. Table 9 shows calculations of the annual rate of return to capital before any allowance for labour. The profitability is quite high at all yield levels though it should be noted that at low rainfed yields, rice cropping would not be a profitable enterprise.

If greater areas could be irrigated from the one pump or second hand equipment can be purchased then the annual rate of return would be even greater. Also, higher irrigated yields are achievable with good management.

The rate of return to capital is real (ie before inflation). If the inflation rate is added to the real rate of return then the new (nominal) rate of return is comparable to interest rates offered by financial institutions.

Table 9: Annual rate of return to capital for four yield scenarios.

Grain Yield - rainfed	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
Increased Gross Margin for 40 hectares	31 154	23 657	15 810	7 964
Depreciation	2 760	2 760	2 760	2 760
Net Annual Return	28 394	20 897	13 050	5 204
Annual Return to Capital (%)	81	59	37	15

## 6. WHOLE FARM PROFITABILITY

While supplementary irrigation appears to be a profitable investment on an existing farm the question arises, would irrigated rice be profitable as a farming system. To some extent this would depend on the other components of the system (ie cattle and buffalo enterprises, other crops etc). The following analysis concentrates on rice growing by apportioning capital and overhead costs to other enterprises. The annual return to capital of 14% is good by the standard of Australian agriculture.

"Capital" Item	Value	%	Rice Capital
		attributed	
	\$	to rice	\$
Land (unimproved)	300 000	50	150 000
Clearing (100 hectares @ \$200/ha)	20 000	100	20 000
Machinery (new)	100 000		
(average value)	80 000	90	72 000
Irrigation Structures and Equipment	40 000	1 100	40 000
			-----
			\$282 000
Income	80 hectares x \$1 736.63/ha	=	\$138 930
Variable Costs (3 irrigations)	80 hectares x \$857.36/ha	=	\$ 68 589
Overhead Costs - labour	60% x \$20 000		\$ 12 000
- other	75% x \$10 000		\$ 7 500
Depreciation - machinery	12%		\$ 8 640
- depreciable irrigation capital	\$34 500 @ 8%		\$ 2 760
Net Annual Return			\$ 39 441
Annual Return to Capital	= 14.0%		

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The preceding analysis in conjunction with the history of the rice industry since the early 80's indicates that water control structures for ponding are the minimum improvements required for viable rice growing in the NT. Flood irrigation from rivers or billabongs is quite profitable for reasonable size areas (40 hectares or more) and extremely profitable if the machinery is purchased secondhand.

Flood irrigation should be regarded as the recommended practice where it is technically feasible, unless a cheaper alternative to supply water is available. Water harvesting (ie the keyline approach) or building rice bays on sites where water flows across the floodplains, would be favourable alternatives though would not provide the same security as flood irrigation.

Recommendations for sowing dates are only given for situations where ponding is the minimum amount of water control, as sowing cannot be recommended in situations without ponding (assuming no other compensating factors).

Late December to early January is the preferred sowing time if seasonal conditions permit. This is on average earlier than the present industry norm. Sowing in mid-December should be considered if conditions are suitable or flood irrigation is available. Late January (after 15 January) is definitely not recommended.

These recommendations should be seriously considered when formulating future Government support to the rice industry.

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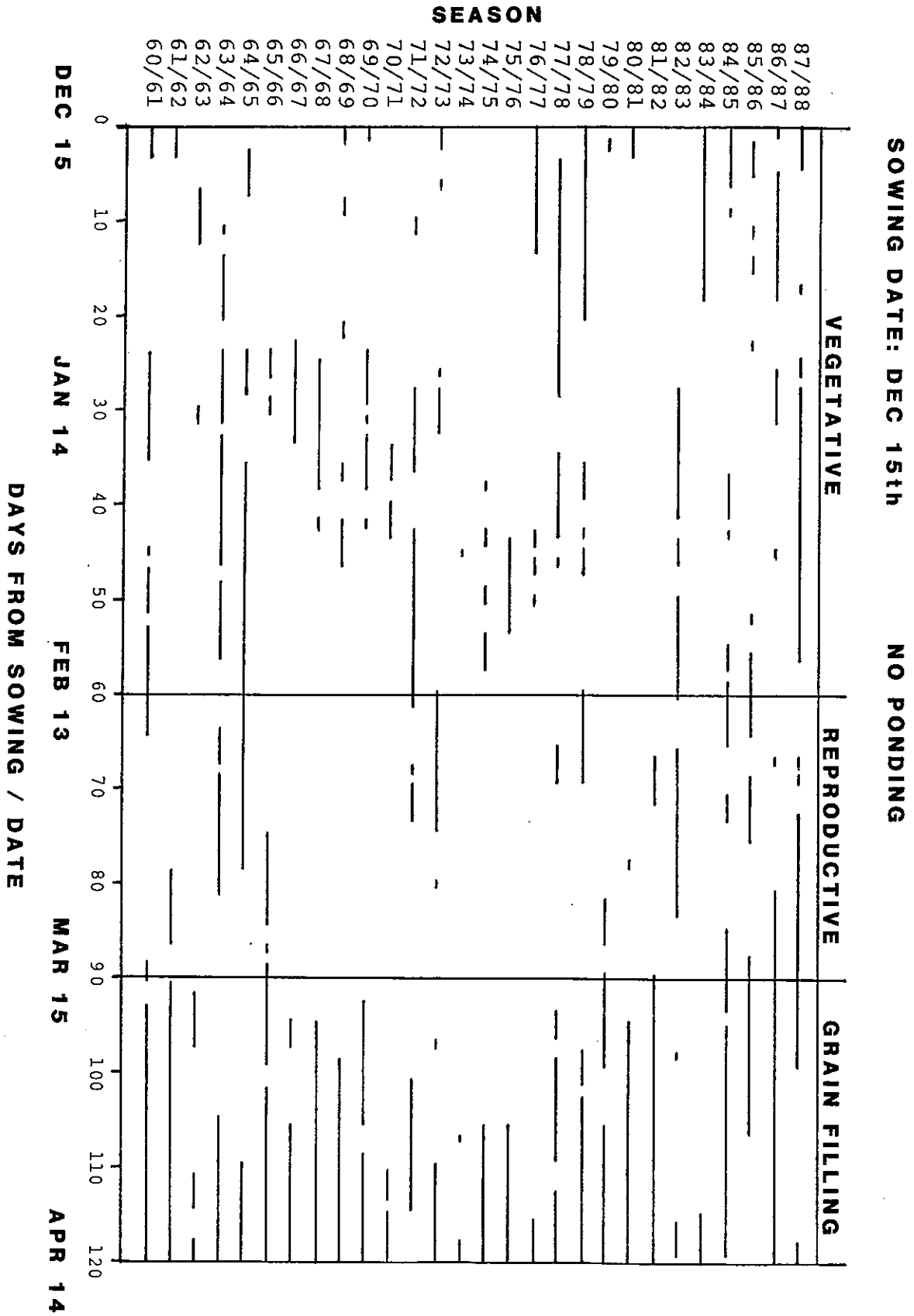
STATION: TORTILLA PLAINS REFERENCE PILE

DATE	NO. BORER	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	
221	6	0.0	0.5	30.2	0.5	9.1	13.7	3.6	6.4	93.0	27.7	0.0	0.0	2.3	11.2	0.0	25.6	15.0	30.2	18.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	28.4	0.0		
222	7	0.0	56.1	2.0	2.3	0.0	16.3	39.9	75.7	34.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.0	34.6	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0		
223	8	1.3	33.3	14.7	0.0	1.5	25.4	77.0	3.6	0.0	3.6	12.2	0.0	3.6	12.2	0.0	3.4	32.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	8.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0		
224	9	2.3	1.3	0.0	46.7	0.3	11.2	4.9	13.5	34.5	36.6	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	6.4	0.0	45.8	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	64.0		
225	10	3.4	9.4	31.8	0.0	0.3	81.9	1.0	0.0	5.3	23.1	49.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.3	0.0	23.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	13.5	39.0	32.0	
226	11	0.0	2.5	18.0	18.8	0.0	11.9	10.2	0.0	1.3	44.7	1.4	5.3	1.3	13.2	7.6	0.0	5.0	28.4	0.0	93.2	10.4	16.0	0.0	21.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.6	6.4	
227	12	2.3	5.3	3.0	0.0	0.0	25.9	0.8	45.7	0.0	1.8	2.3	0.0	0.0	7.6	19.8	3.2	7.0	4.4	0.0	16.1	1.4	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	33.2		
228	13	6.3	0.0	16.3	4.1	2.3	3.8	2.8	0.0	3.8	15.0	14.5	0.0	0.0	30.0	41.3	9.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	31.0	6.2	50.7	16.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	7.0		
229	14	0.0	3.8	35.1	5.1	11.2	0.0	55.0	28.4	11.7	0.0	0.0	34.3	0.0	33.5	0.0	0.0	35.8	0.0	10.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
230	15	0.0	19.1	24.7	0.0	6.9	0.0	29.7	0.5	0.0	13.7	0.0	7.1	0.0	7.3	41.3	51.8	25.6	1.0	1.2	15.1	6.0	4.2	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
231	16	10.7	7.6	7.9	0.0	2.0	7.6	18.5	2.0	0.0	2.8	23.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	2.4	0.0	20.0	0.0	33.4	8.0	0.0	10.3	0.0	6.8	0.0		
232	17	35.8	0.5	1.5	0.0	14.7	1.8	8.1	0.0	15.5	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.0	0.0	115.3	24.6	3.8	0.6	10.4	0.0	35.0	11.2	6.2	21.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		
233	18	17.3	6.1	22.4	0.0	1.3	4.3	1.8	0.0	5.6	0.0	49.5	0.3	0.0	21.8	3.6	0.0	6.4	0.0	0.0	42.2	8.0	0.0	0.0	21.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		
234	19	4.1	1.0	0.0	24.6	0.0	0.0	21.8	2.3	0.3	0.0	39.3	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	42.0	5.0	2.0	0.0		
235	20	0.4	25.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.8	2.3	0.3	0.0	42.2	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	9.4	4.4	14.2	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	15.0	0.0	25.3	9.0	
236	21	18.3	0.0	11.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.1	34.5	0.0	7.6	0.0	14.0	0.0	25.7	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	58.0	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	
237	22	1.3	25.1	11.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	45.5	1.8	36.8	4.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.0	68.2	18.2	0.0	21.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.0	
238	23	0.0	16.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	59.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	7.1	5.3	0.0	0.0	65.4	5.2	62.4	0.0	0.0	32.5	0.6	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.0	0.2		
239	24	10.9	0.0	24.4	25.9	8.1	0.0	3.6	0.0	33.0	6.6	0.0	31.2	2.2	3.8	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	28.4	21.3	50.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
240	25	33.9	0.0	9.9	0.0	0.0	3.6	12.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	32.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	24.0	0.0	0.0	56.1	9.0	1.8	0.0	42.0	1.5	12.5	36.0	0.0	
241	26	2.0	0.0	9.7	0.0	2.0	3.3	4.1	42.3	17.3	22.1	1.3	26.2	22.1	31.8	5.3	45.4	50.6	4.0	9.0	22.1	0.0	0.0	10.0	61.0	58.0	6.5	0.0	0.0		
242	27	33.5	5.1	2.0	0.0	10.2	1.3	6.1	8.1	4.1	0.0	1.0	1.3	25.9	18.7	0.0	1.8	0.0	34.2	3.2	80.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	
243	28	11.2	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.1	5.9	21.6	23.6	0.0	18.5	7.8	0.0	19.3	0.0	18.6	42.2	61.2	0.0	40.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	42.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	
244	29	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.3	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
245	30	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
246	31	4.4	2.5	0.0	1.3	4.6	0.0	3.3	7.9	0.0	4.8	20.1	1.3	16.0	3.8	0.0	6.3	6.4	24.6	1.2	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
247	32	0.0	1.0	34.3	0.8	23.4	15.0	12.2	0.0	16.3	2.0	0.0	17.7	0.0	0.0	1.3	6.6	16.2	0.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	0.2	9.6	0.0	13.0	0.0	23.0	6.0	0.0	
248	33	27.2	0.0	5.6	14.2	44.7	0.0	12.2	5.4	165.4	0.0	5.3	17.5	0.0	44.2	0.0	1.6	7.0	10.2	0.0	0.0	39.0	0.0	0.0	52.0	0.0	0.0	23.0	15.0	0.0	
249	34	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.1	13.2	11.7	11.3	10.3	63.0	7.1	56.6	6.6	67.3	0.0	0.0	1.0	22.8	0.0	56.4	0.0	12.0	24.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	
250	35	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	17.5	10.9	0.5	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	3.8	2.5	11.1	14.2	20.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.3	4.4	8.0	0.0	1.0		
251	36	0.0	0.0	5.3	10.7	6.9	2.3	0.8	0.5	0.0	29.0	43.7	10.7	2.0	48.8	6.6	21.6	5.8	4.2	26.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
252	37	0.0	0.0	21.6	37.8	6.8	14.7	0.0	15.2	0.0	0.0	1.3	43.2	35.6	6.9	24.4	10.4	15.4	9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	59.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
253	38	15.2	0.0	0.0	23.9	0.3	24.1	99.1	0.0	0.0	10.9	0.0	26.7	0.0	0.0	10.3	26.2	5.2	15.0	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	18.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
254	39	1.3	0.0	0.0	49.0	9.4	0.0	7.3	0.0	6.1	0.0	0.0	27.4	0.0	0.0	8.1	2.2	0.0	1.3	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	
255	40	0.0	44.7	2.8	18.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.9	0.0	0.0	10.4	0.0	0.0	61.2	0.8	37.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.1	17.0	0.0	12.8	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	
256	41	6.4	1.3	28.4	17.5	8.9	0.0	13.0	24.9	13.5	4.3	0.0	0.0	44.7	31.4	27.4	35.3	4.2	0.0	44.4	4.1	76.6	10.4	0.0	0.0	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
257	42	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.2	3.0	0.0	86.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
258	43	7.9	0.0	4.8	14.7	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	44.1	20.4	4.8	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.5	23.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
259	44	17.8	0.0	0.0	3.0	16.5	0.0	2.8	0.0	1.8	0.0	46.7	27.2	0.5	6.4	0.0	38.0	0.0	3.2	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.0	16.8	22.0	0.0	11.0		
260	45	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	31.3	0.0	4.1	0.0	22.6	13.8	0.0	11.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
261	46	0.0	5.8	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.0	55.1	0.0	0.0	105.4	0.0	12.4	67.3	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	42.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
262	47	2.5	1.5	2.3	15.5	0.0	12.4	0.5	0.0	67.6	0.5	0.0	11.2	0.0	0.5	25.9	18.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	28.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	
263	48	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	8.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.5	13.7	2.3	1.3	0.0	49.5	0.0	10.0	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
264	49	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	57.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	17.5	2.8	9.9	35.4	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
265	50	0.0	0.0	1.8	12.2	3.0	0.3	7.9	0.0	28.4	0.0	18.5	0.0	3.6	0.0	0.2	147.4	32.4	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	
266	51	0.0	0.0	61.7	0.5	5.3	1.6	22.4	0.0	0.0	10.2	0.0	31.5	23.6	64.8	41.6	112.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
267	52	0.0	0.0	7.9	6.4	13.5	1.0	39.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0	0.0	72.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0										



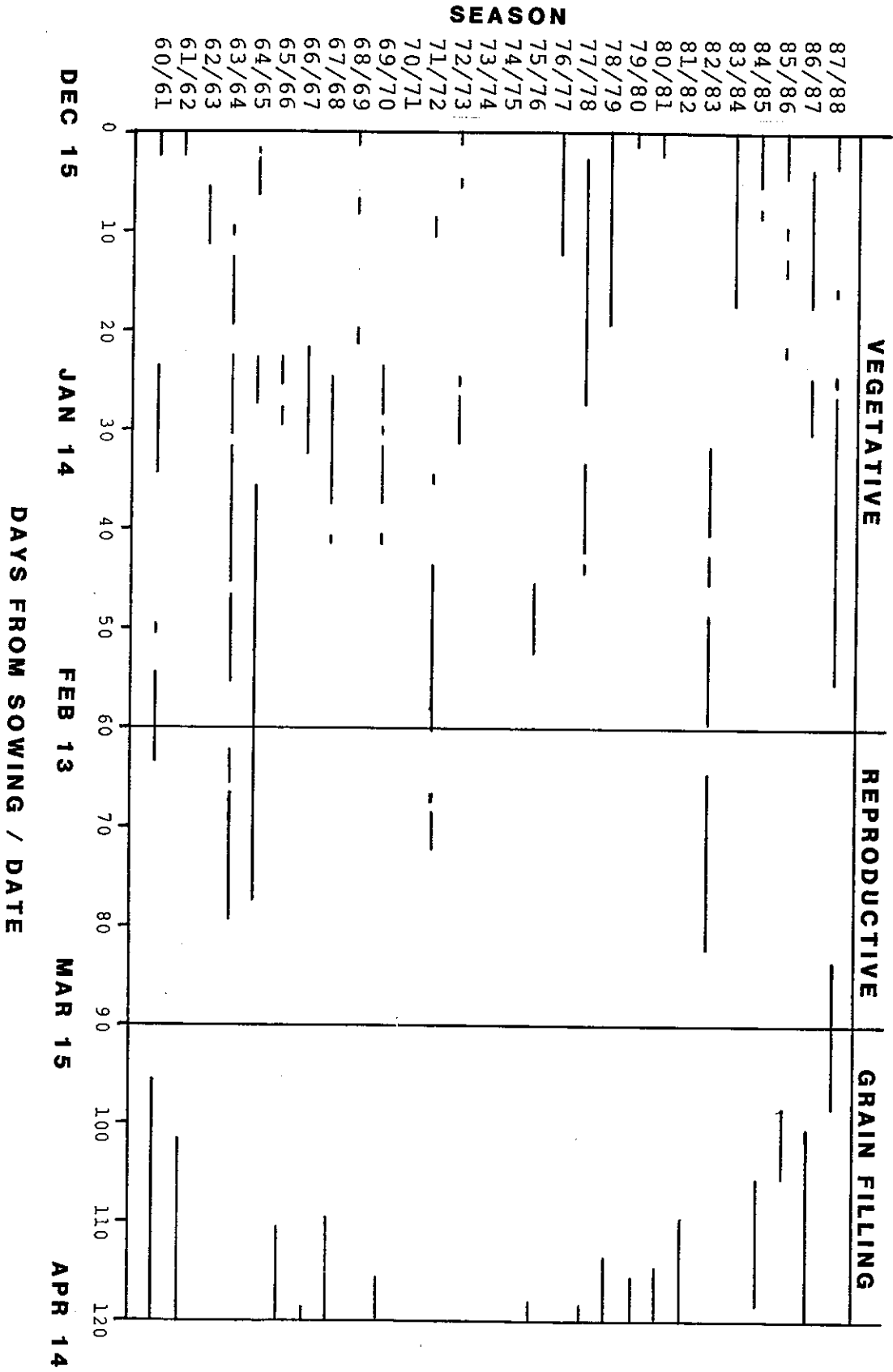


Appendix 2: Stress periods (—) during the rice growing season for rice sown on three dates with and without ponding



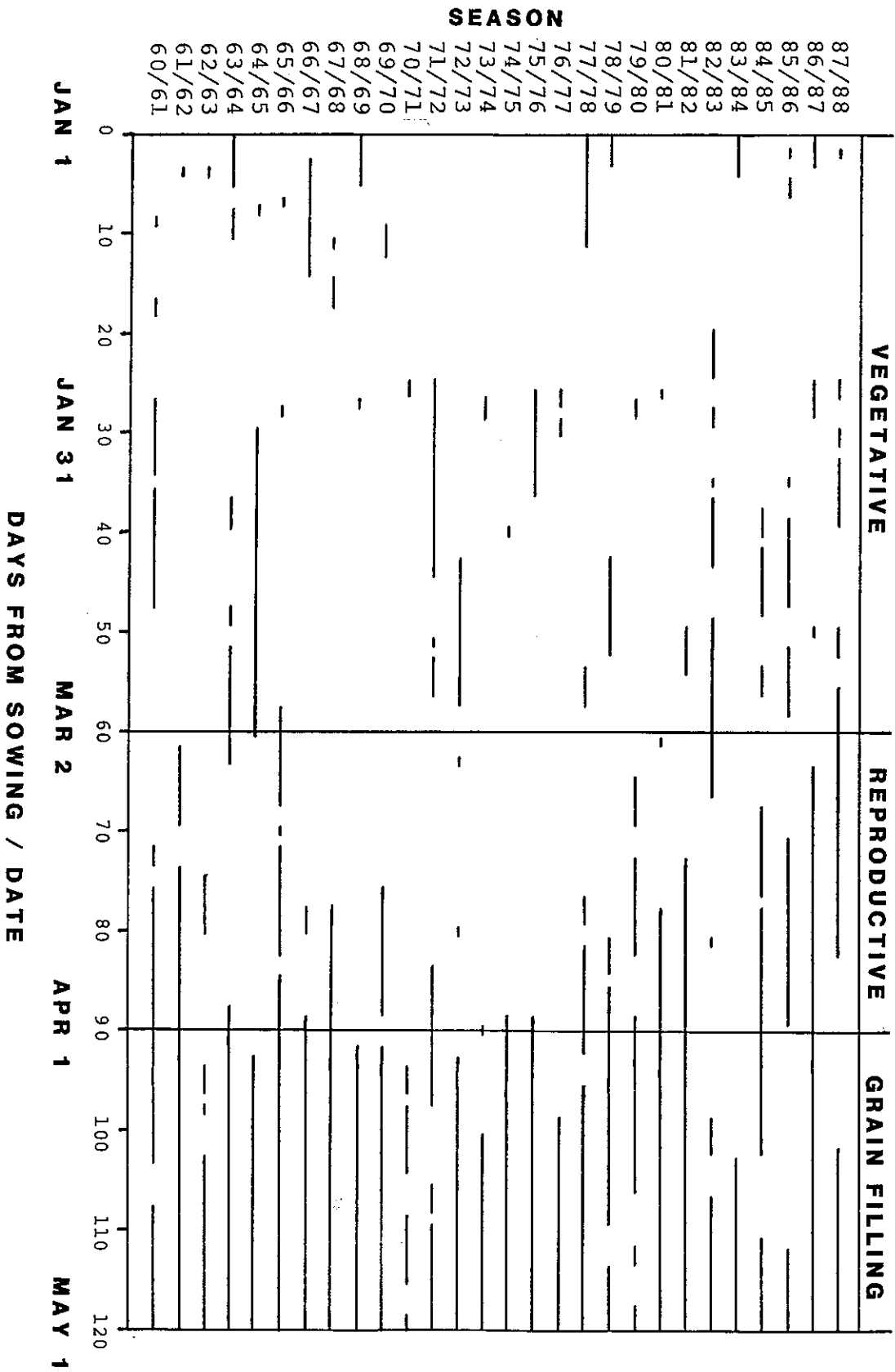
SOWING DATE: DEC 15th

PONDING (100mm)



1987

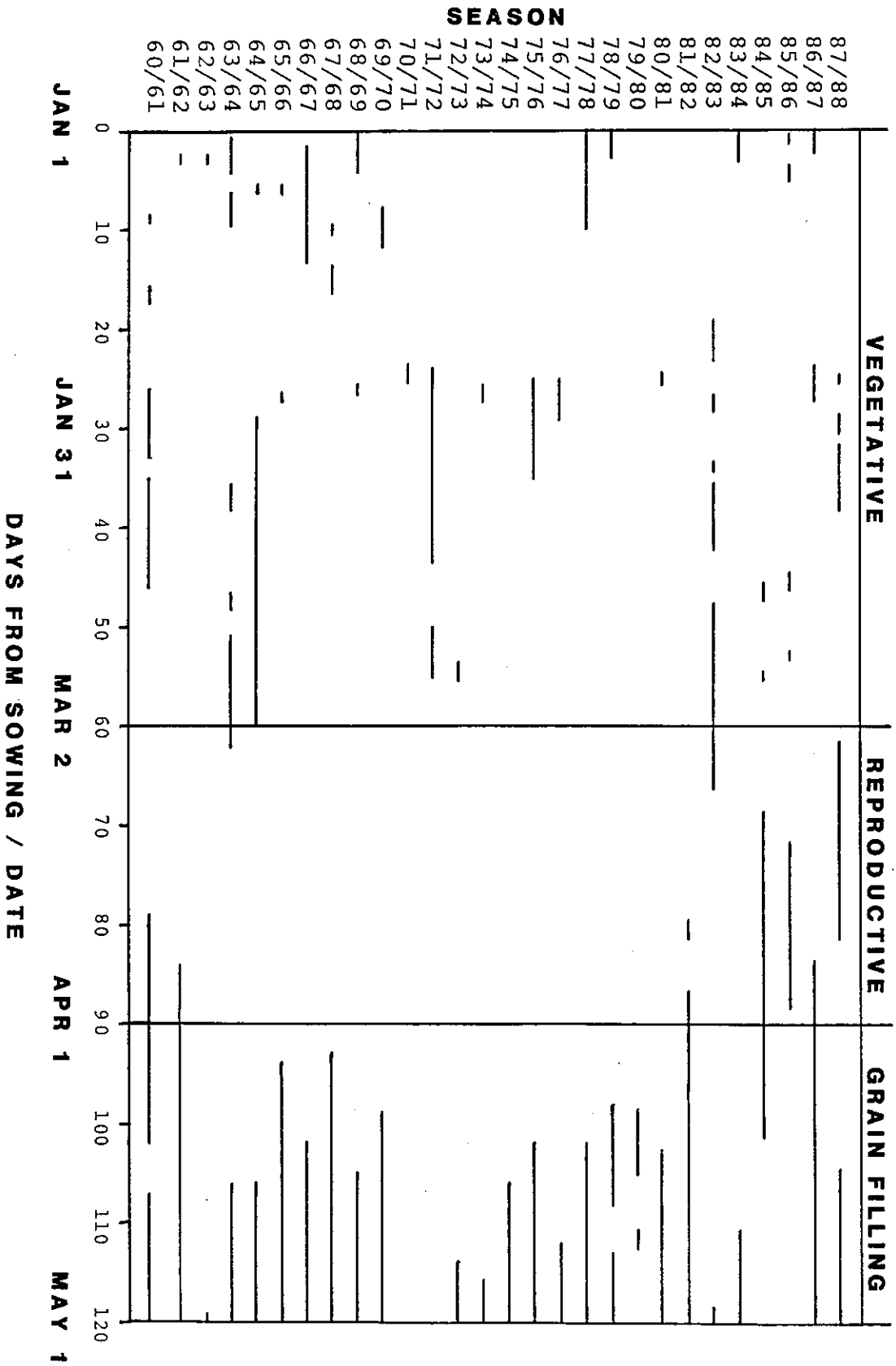
SOWING DATE: JAN 1st NO PONDING



DAYS FROM SOWING / DATE

JAN 1 JAN 31 MAR 2 APR 1 MAY 1

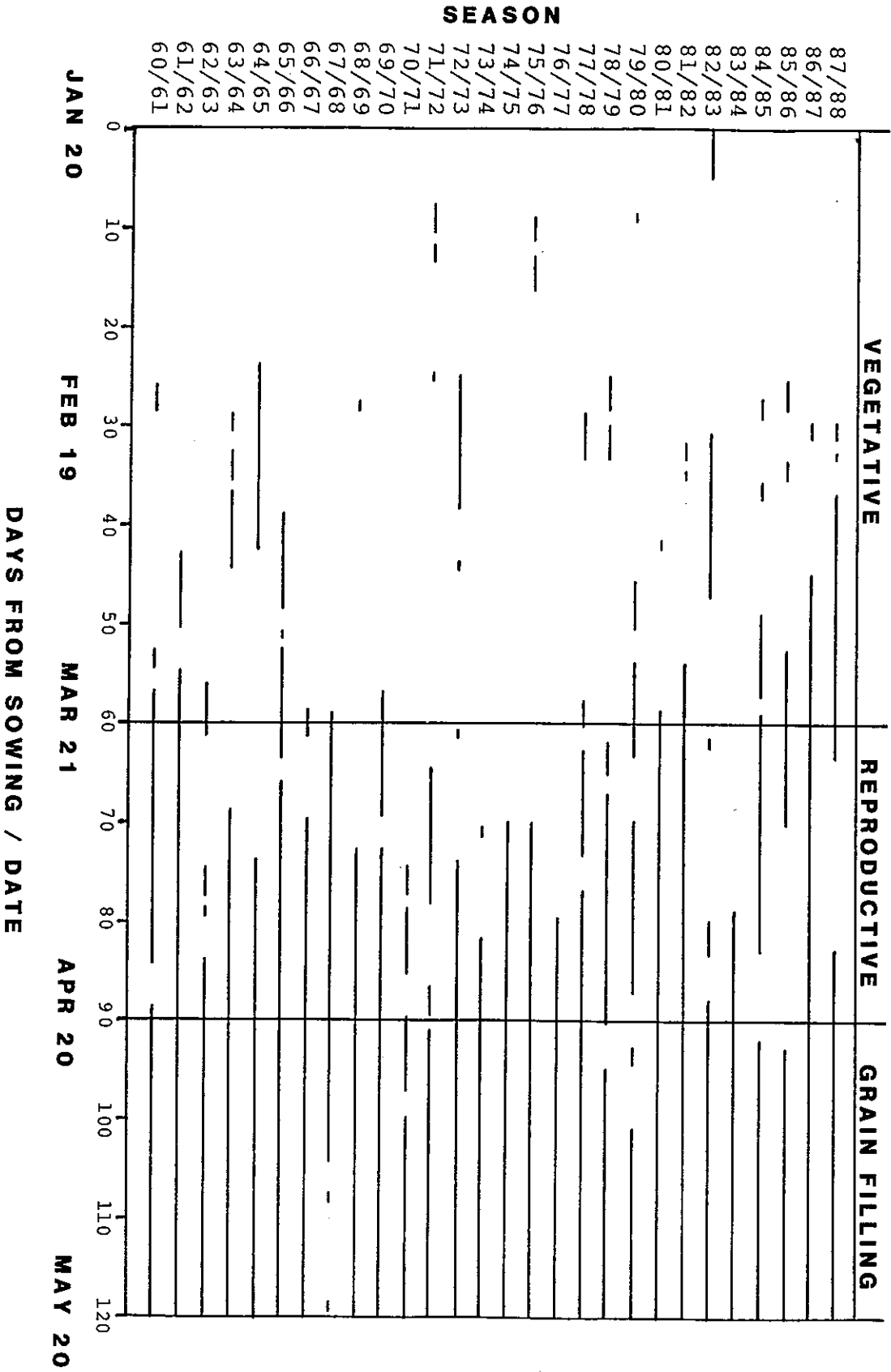
SOWING DATE: JAN 1st PONDING (100mm)





SOWING DATE: JAN 20th

NO PONDING



SOWING DATE: JAN 20th

PONDING (100mm)

