

# Alberta Irrigation Information 2018





# ALBERTA IRRIGATION INFORMATION 2018

Basin Water Management Section  
Irrigation And Farm Water Branch

September 2019

The purpose of this booklet is to provide a statistical overview of irrigation information and data relating primarily to the thirteen irrigation districts situated in Alberta, but also includes information about irrigation across the whole province. The majority of the annual data is provided by the irrigation districts.

This report is prepared by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

For more information, please contact:

Andrea Gonzalez  
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
Agriculture Centre  
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4V6  
Telephone (403) 381-5117  
[andrea.gonzalez@gov.ab.ca](mailto:andrea.gonzalez@gov.ab.ca)

AID – Aetna Irrigation District  
BRID – Bow River Irrigation District  
EID – Eastern Irrigation District  
LID – Leavitt Irrigation District  
LNID – Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District  
MID – Magrath Irrigation District  
MVID – Mountain View Irrigation District  
RID – Raymond Irrigation District  
RCID – Ross Creek Irrigation District  
SMRID – St. Mary River Irrigation District  
TID – Taber Irrigation District  
UID – United Irrigation District  
WID – Western Irrigation District

## Unit Conversion Factors

### Imperial to Metric

1 acre = 0.405 ha  
1 ac-ft = 1233.480 m<sup>3</sup>  
1 ac-ft = 1.233 dam<sup>3</sup>  
1 inch = 25.4 mm  
1 mile = 1.609 km

### Metric to Imperial

1 ha = 2.471 acres  
1 m<sup>3</sup> = 0.00081 ac-ft<sup>3</sup>  
1 dam<sup>3</sup> = 0.8107 ac-ft<sup>3</sup>  
1 mm = 0.0394 inches  
1 km = 0.6214 miles

### Other

1 m<sup>3</sup> = 1000 L<sup>3</sup>  
1 dam<sup>3</sup> = 1000 m<sup>3</sup>  
1 dam<sup>3</sup> = 1 megalitre<sup>3</sup>  
1 km = 1000 m

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**Table 1. Details of Crops Grown within the 13 Irrigation Districts**

CROP TYPE		AID			BRID			EID			LID			LNID		
		acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system
		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year	
CEREALS	Barley	475	991		11,488	2,124		12,184			150	16		17,537		
	CPS Wheat				1,496			2,852						504		
	Durum Wheat				15,895	242		5,261						8,432		
	Grain Corn				5,538			8,637								
	Hard Spring Wheat				51,326	2,885		53,196						2,865		
	Malt Barley				892	315										
	Miscellaneous Cereals													3,404		
	Oats				447	18		2,442			30			303		
	Rye				188			237								
	Soft Wheat				1,629	117		380						7,528		
Triticale				986	36		3,700			60			1,328			
Winter Wheat				4,069	59		2,342									
FORAGES	Alfalfa - Two cuts				115			25,548								
	Alfalfa - Three cuts							8,416								
	Alfalfa - Four cuts															
	Alfalfa Hay	1,345	550		14,812	306		6,757		663	75		11,701			
	Alfalfa Silage							922					17,613			
	Barley Silage				1,904	137		3,030					31,275			
	Barley Silage (underseeded)							331								
	Brome Hay												472			
	Corn Silage				5,388	7		18,605					29,738			
	Custom Variety Forage/Misc							154					76			
	Grass Hay		6		6,838	358		13,255		466	330		5,620			
	Green Feed	202	89		1,499	205		6,656		69						
	Milk Vetch				132											
	Native Pasture	14			135			1,291		100			244			
	Oats Silage				357	143		349								
Sorghum/Sudan Grass							391									
Tame Pasture	388	428		7,715	740		37,977		1,393	30		4,064				
Timothy Hay							2,735		705			3,934				
Triticale Silage																
OIL SEEDS	Canola		107		14,142	736		24,984					28,735			
	Flax				2,824			4,503					887			
	Mustard				135			413								
	Safflower				10			68								
SPECIALTY CROPS	Alfalfa Seed				14,373	23		24,527								
	Canary Seed				70											
	Canola Seed				18,119	5		9,306								
	Carrots							244								
	Catnip															
	Chick Peas															
	Dill							250								
	Dry Beans				17,373	25		3,723								
	Dry Peas				11,423			4,211					638			
	Faba Beans				317			680								
	Fresh Corn (sweet)				38			135								
	Fresh Peas				72			235								
	Grass Seed				204			105								
	Hemp				2,009	22		565					1,766			
	Lawn Turf				11								975			
	Lentils				130	29		42								
	Market Gardens				31			128					48			
	Mint				348			125								
	Nursery							408					7			
	Onions															
Potatoes				11,243			6,028					1,056				
Pumpkins																
Radishes																
Seed Potatoes																
Small Fruit																
Soybeans				896	4		1,509									
Sugar Beets				11,435	28		1,469					2,476				
Sunflower				487			2,367									
Yellow Peas																
OTHER	Miscellaneous	44	65		489	405				228	717					
	Non Crop							146								
	Summer Fallow				270	55		621								
	Unknown															
<b>Total acres</b>		<b>2,468</b>	<b>2,236</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>239,295</b>	<b>9,023</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>303,673</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,863</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>187,269</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>4,704</b>			<b>248,318</b>			<b>304,440</b>			<b>5,031</b>			<b>187,269</b>		

**Table 1. Details of Crops Grown within the 13 Irrigation Districts (cont'd)**

CROP TYPE		MID			MVID			RCID			RID			SMRID		
		acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system
		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year	
CEREALS	Barley	1,095	144		103					4,170	40		13,777	227	659	
	CPS Wheat									971			1,723			
	Durum Wheat	290								3,260			33,132	104	972	
	Grain Corn												6,386		4	
	Hard Spring Wheat	3,107	528			125				2,758	20		57,485	620	3,252	
	Malt Barley									455			257		13	
	Miscellaneous Cereals									254	2,017			9		
	Oats				83					120			413			
	Rye									405			407		5	
	Soft Wheat									360			2,225		50	
	Triticale									150			951		82	
Winter Wheat	485	120							676			12,757	231	297		
FORAGES	Alfalfa - Two cuts												16,824	380	1,157	
	Alfalfa - Three cuts												4,225			
	Alfalfa - Four cuts															
	Alfalfa Hay	5,612	320		936	583		781		4,603			10,284	117	786	
	Alfalfa Silage									450	250		1,081		171	
	Barley Silage	202								2,116			5,489	14	386	
	Barley Silage (underseeded)												1,114		68	
	Brome Hay												71			
	Corn Silage										3,729		25,820	14	1,000	
	Custom Variety Forage/Misc												120			
	Grass Hay	438	20		325	154				610			5,761	425	712	
	Green Feed	436	229		150	32				206			1,894	25	117	
	Milk Vetch															
	Native Pasture												3,670	216	573	
	Oats Silage										482		310			
	Sorghum/Sudan Grass												428	35		
Tame Pasture	1,008	362		667	253				4,110	467		8,759	1,011	1,193		
Timothy Hay									1,034			7,122		286		
Triticale Silage									260			497				
OIL SEEDS	Canola	2,665	407						116			6,564	290	37,464	188	1,341
	Flax	128										815		5,596		14
	Mustard												225			
	Safflower															
SPECIALTY CROPS	Alfalfa Seed												3,420			
	Canary Seed				141											
	Canola Seed												20,025	64	15	
	Carrots												72	59		
	Catnip												454			
	Chick Peas												2,087		21	
	Dill												256		57	
	Dry Beans												31,261	65	325	
	Dry Peas	285									1,246	60	11,425	112	617	
	Faba Beans												426		2	
	Fresh Corn (sweet)												519			
	Fresh Peas					112							1,406			
	Grass Seed	239											648			
	Hemp		20								299		4,949		96	
	Lawn Turf												146			
	Lentils												3,224	4	158	
	Market Gardens										50		526		30	
	Mint												4,206			
	Nursery										43		330	31	7	
	Onions												5			
	Potatoes												15,640	20	173	
Pumpkins																
Radishes																
Seed Potatoes	130											65				
Small Fruit												58				
Soybeans												599	2	27		
Sugar Beets												10,577		180		
Sunflower												449				
Yellow Peas												685				
OTHER	Miscellaneous										42		1,296	179	250	
	Non Crop												338	184	335	
	Summer Fallow		60										171	28	689	
	Unknown															
<b>Total acres</b>		<b>16,120</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46,968</b>	<b>3,144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>381,529</b>	<b>4,362</b>	<b>16,120</b>
		<b>18,330</b>			<b>3,663</b>			<b>897</b>			<b>50,112</b>			<b>402,011</b>		



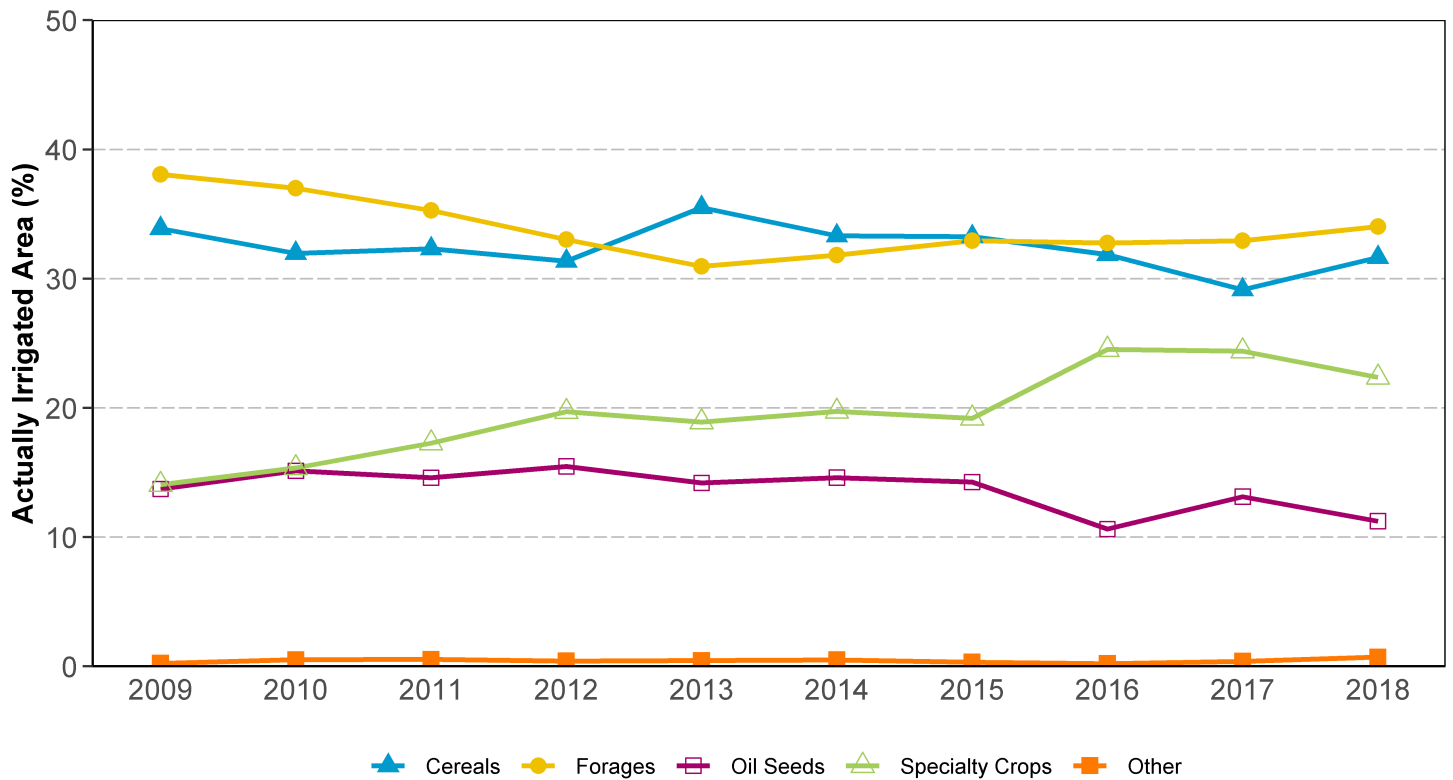
**Table 1. Details of Crops Grown within the 13 Irrigation Districts (cont'd)**

CROP TYPE	TID			UID			WID			ALL DISTRICTS			TOTAL ACRES (for all districts)	
	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system	acres covered by an irrigation system		acres with no irrigation system		
	Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year		Irrigated this year	Not irrigated this year			
CEREALS	Barley	6,091	10		4,712			5,848	403		77,630	3,955	659	82,243
	CPS Wheat							3,627			11,173	0	0	11,173
	Durum Wheat	2,500	105		32			530			69,332	450	972	70,755
	Grain Corn	1,236	10					170			21,967	10	4	21,981
	Hard Spring Wheat	14,638	112		5,458			9,404	1,274		200,237	5,565	3,252	209,054
	Malt Barley	6						40			1,650	315	13	1,978
	Miscellaneous Cereals		40								3,658	2,066	0	5,724
	Oats	613						322	85		4,772	103	0	4,876
	Rye	65						49			1,351	0	5	1,356
	Soft Wheat							772	261		12,895	378	50	13,322
	Triticale				227						7,402	36	82	7,520
Winter Wheat	1,315			797						22,440	410	297	23,147	
FORAGES	Alfalfa - Two cuts	525	64		3,362			9,681	475		56,056	919	1,157	58,132
	Alfalfa - Three cuts	2,583	101		1,840			1,153			24,667	101	0	24,768
	Alfalfa - Four cuts										280	0	0	280
	Alfalfa Hay	4,247	278		89			3,908	1,096		65,737	3,325	786	69,849
	Alfalfa Silage	56			41						20,163	250	171	20,584
	Barley Silage	826			1,655			6,256	316		52,754	467	386	53,606
	Barley Silage (underseeded)							392			1,837	0	68	1,905
	Brome Hay							328			871	0	0	871
	Corn Silage	3,392						550	315		87,222	335	1,000	88,557
	Custom Variety Forage/Misc										350	0	0	350
	Grass Hay	268	52		1,013			1,041	60		35,634	1,405	712	37,751
	Green Feed	371	74		488			507			12,477	654	117	13,248
	Milk Vetch										132	0	0	132
	Native Pasture	18	327		2,767			3,437	976		11,676	1,519	573	13,768
	Oats Silage				135			588			2,221	143	0	2,364
	Sorghum/Sudan Grass										819	35	0	854
Tame Pasture	3,300	978		1,843			1,665	175		72,889	4,443	1,193	78,525	
Timothy Hay	2,633			1,467			1,113			20,743	0	286	21,029	
Triticale Silage										757	0	0	757	
OIL SEEDS	Canola	1,762	212		6,721			14,511	1,789		137,664	3,729	1,341	142,734
	Flax	720						380			15,853	0	14	15,867
	Mustard										773	0	0	773
	Safflower										78	0	0	78
SPECIALTY CROPS	Alfalfa Seed	65									42,385	23	0	42,407
	Canary Seed										211	0	0	211
	Canola Seed	4,496									51,946	69	15	52,030
	Carrots							60			376	59	0	435
	Catnip										454	0	0	454
	Chick Peas										2,087	0	21	2,108
	Dill										506	0	57	563
	Dry Beans	4,013									56,370	90	325	56,785
	Dry Peas	444			1,299			1,683	90		32,653	262	617	33,532
	Faba Beans	132									1,554	0	2	1,556
	Fresh Corn (sweet)	1,957	66								2,649	66	0	2,715
	Fresh Peas	2,315						508	270		4,648	270	0	4,918
	Grass Seed				144			80			1,420	0	0	1,420
	Hemp										9,588	42	96	9,727
	Lawn Turf	96						2,500			3,728	0	0	3,728
	Lentils										3,396	33	158	3,587
	Market Gardens	22			19						824	0	30	854
	Mint										4,679	0	0	4,679
	Nursery	12						1,080	307		1,880	338	7	2,225
	Onions	929									934	0	0	934
Potatoes	11,354	9		3			160			45,484	29	173	45,686	
Pumpkins	157									157	0	0	157	
Radishes										0	0	0	0	
Seed Potatoes	599						376			1,170	0	0	1,170	
Small Fruit							60			118	0	0	118	
Soybeans	211									3,215	6	27	3,247	
Sugar Beets	4,495	30								30,452	58	180	30,689	
Sunflower	215									3,518	0	0	3,518	
Yellow Peas										685	0	0	685	
OTHER	Miscellaneous	110	71		194			2,424			8,870	1,436	250	10,556
	Non Crop		48		4			270	197		612	575	335	1,522
	Summer Fallow	10									450	764	689	1,903
	Unknown			4,238							0	0	14,911	14,911
<b>Total acres</b>	<b>78,797</b>	<b>2,587</b>	<b>4,238</b>	<b>34,309</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>75,473</b>	<b>8,089</b>	<b>10,673</b>	<b>1,373,178</b>	<b>34,731</b>	<b>31,031</b>	<b>1,438,941</b>	
		<b>85,622</b>			<b>34,309</b>			<b>94,235</b>			<b>1,438,941</b>		<b>1,438,941</b>	

Table 2. Crop Types Grown within the 13 irrigation Districts

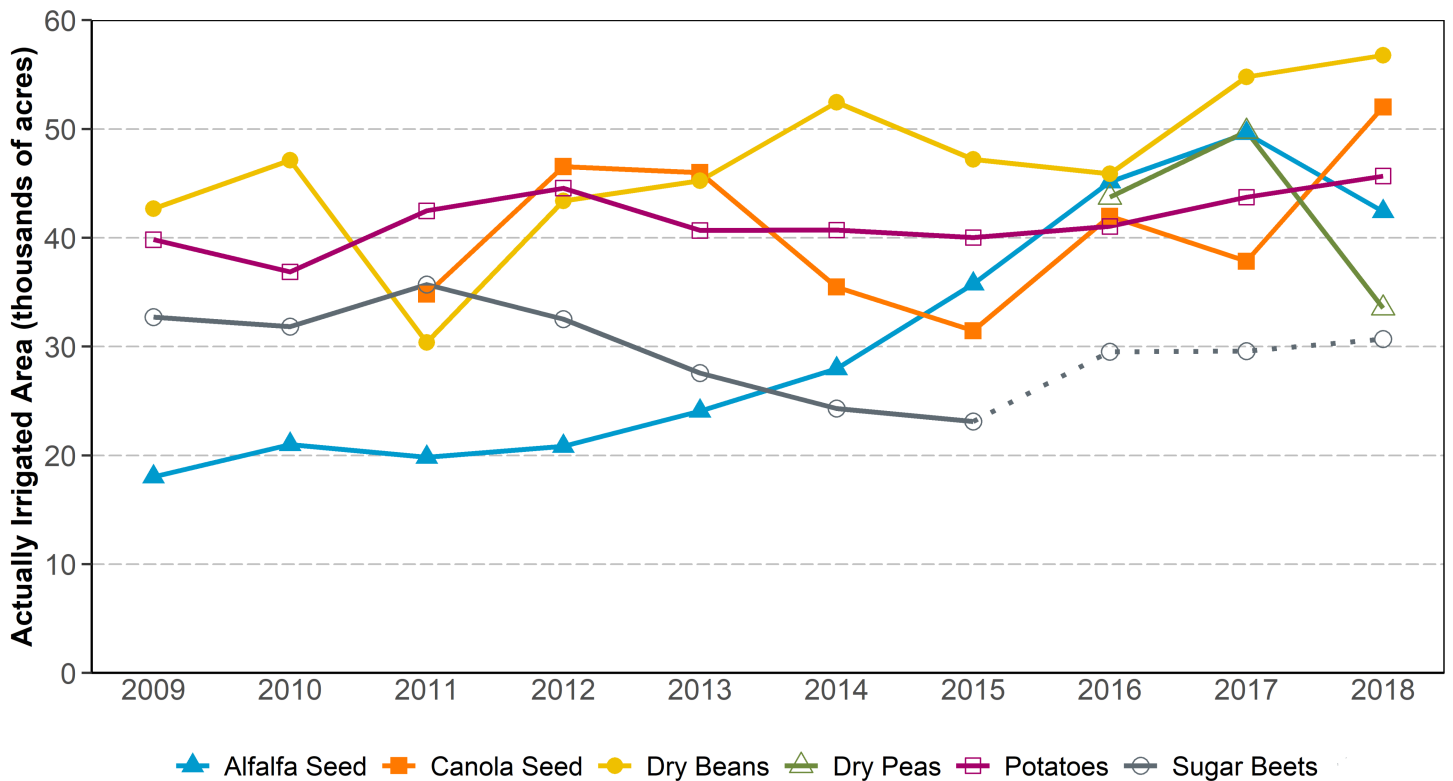
CROP TYPE	IRRIGATION DISTRICTS													TOTAL ACRES
	AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	
CEREALS	1,466	99,750	91,231	255	41,901	5,769	311	0	15,656	136,039	26,741	11,227	22,785	<b>453,130</b>
	31.2%	40.2%	30.0%	5.1%	22.4%	31.5%	8.5%	0.0%	31.2%	33.8%	31.2%	32.7%	24.2%	<b>31.5%</b>
FORAGES	3,022	40,790	126,417	3,831	104,737	8,627	3,099	781	25,047	102,156	20,093	14,699	34,032	<b>487,331</b>
	64.2%	16.4%	41.5%	76.1%	55.9%	47.1%	84.6%	87.1%	50.0%	25.4%	23.5%	42.8%	36.1%	<b>33.9%</b>
OIL SEEDS	107	17,847	29,968	0	29,622	3,200	0	116	7669	44,827	2,694	6,721	16,680	<b>159,451</b>
	2.3%	7.2%	9.8%	0.0%	15.8%	17.5%	0.0%	12.9%	15.3%	11.2%	3.1%	19.6%	17.7%	<b>11.1%</b>
SPECIALTY CROPS	0	88,712	56,057	0	6,966	674	253	0	1,698	115,521	31,617	1,465	7,174	<b>310,137</b>
	0.0%	35.7%	18.4%	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	6.9%	0.0%	3.4%	28.7%	36.9%	4.3%	7.6%	<b>21.6%</b>
OTHER *	109	1,219	767	945	4,043	60	0	0	42	3,468	4,477	197	13,564	<b>28,891</b>
	2.3%	0.5%	0.3%	18.8%	2.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.9%	5.2%	0.6%	14.4%	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,704</b>	<b>248,318</b>	<b>304,440</b>	<b>5,031</b>	<b>187,269</b>	<b>18,330</b>	<b>3,663</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>50,112</b>	<b>402,011</b>	<b>85,622</b>	<b>34,309</b>	<b>94,235</b>	<b>1,438,941</b>

Note: \*Other includes miscellaneous, non crop, summer fallow and unknown crops. AID and LID data is from 2016



**Figure 1. Irrigated Crop Types Within the 13 Irrigation Districts**

Note: Starting in 2011, acreage data for canola seed (canola grown for seed production) was moved from the oil seeds category to the specialty crop category.



**Figure 2. Acres of Five Major Irrigation Specialty Crops within 13 Irrigation Districts**

Note: Starting in 2011, acreage data for canola seed (canola grown for seed production) was moved from the oil seeds category to the specialty crop category. In 2016, dry peas surpassed sugar beets in the five major irrigated specialty crops in acreage.

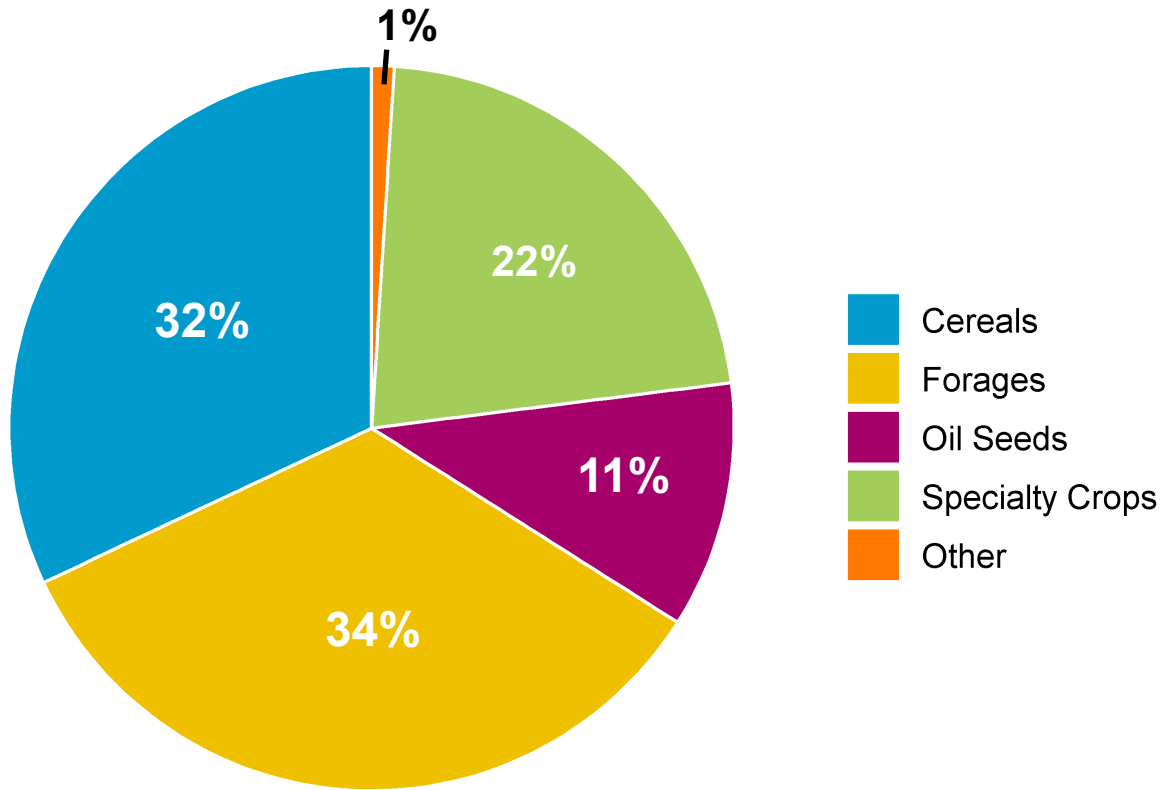


Figure 3. Crop Types within the 13 Irrigation Districts in 2018 (% of area)

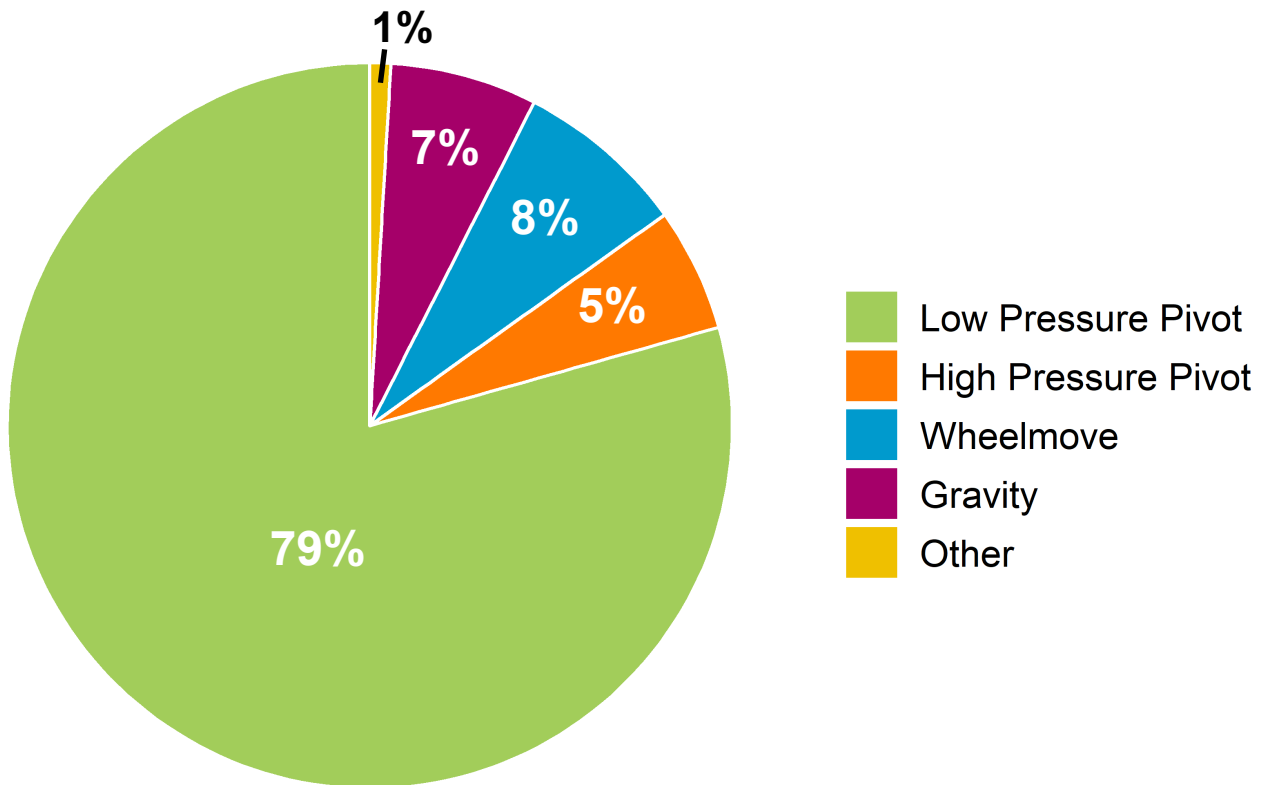
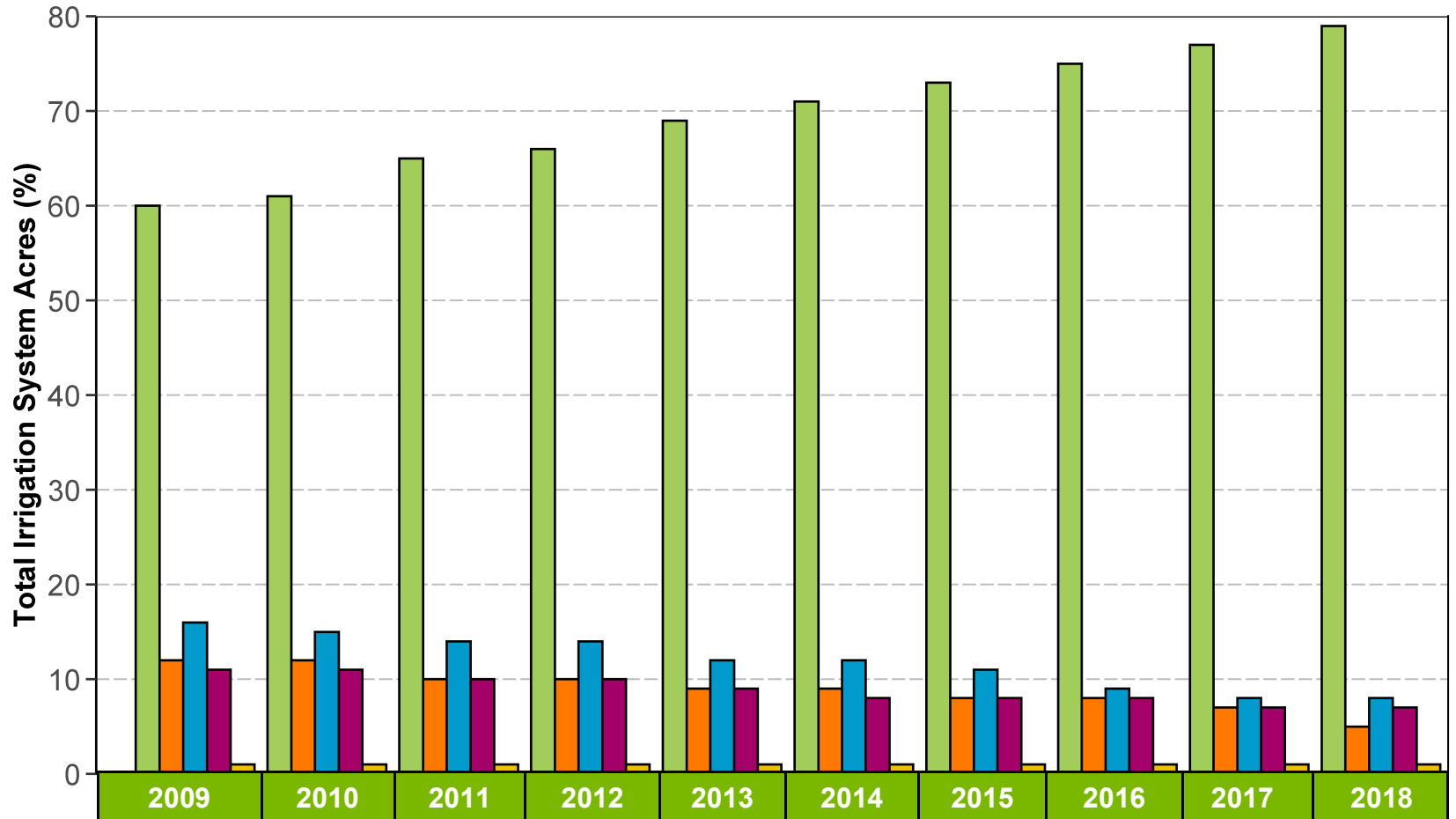


Figure 4. On-farm Irrigation Methods within the 13 Irrigation Districts in 2018 (% of area)

**Table 3. On-farm Irrigation Method Acres within 13 Irrigation Districts**

IRRIGATION METHOD		AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	Individual Method Total	Total Acres Covered
LOW PRESSURE PIVOT	Pivot Low Pressure	1,099	149,862	190,684	411	69,936	8,343		604	29,862	287,015	42,187	17,934	56,087	854,024	1,115,693
	Pivot Low Pressure - Corner Arm		62,988	17,086		90,593	140			2,298	48,796	19,683	1,191	4,116	246,891	
	Linear - Low Pressure		56	1,479		276				407	1,287	220	239	323	4,287	
	Pivot Medium Pressure		850	4,300				253		824	3,064				9,291	
	Pivot Medium Pressure - Corner Arm		448	252							500				1,200	
Percent of total ----		23.4%	86.3%	70.4%	8.2%	85.9%	46.3%	6.9%	66.8%	73.6%	88.3%	76.3%	56.0%	70%		79.4%
HIGH PRESSURE PIVOT	Pivot High Pressure		15,882	24,577	761		2,186		67	805	8,721	8,204	568	7,206	68,977	77,393
	Pivot High Pressure - Corner arm		2,272	2,561							1,473	1,087		260	7,653	
	Linear - High Pressure			217								84		462	763	
	Percent of total ----	0.0%	7.3%	9.0%	15.1%	0.0%	11.9%	0.0%	7.4%	1.8%	2.6%	11.5%	1.6%	9.2%		
WHEEL MOVE	Wheel Move - One and Two Laterals	1,822	3,964	12,183	1,323	10,864	4,537	468	226	6,692	23,657	7,469	1,673	8,288	83,166	107,193
	Wheel Move - Three and Four Laterals		1,924	3,512	194	11,509				923	2,937	483	103	2,442	24,027	
	Percent of total ----	38.7%	2.4%	5.2%	30.2%	11.9%	24.8%	12.8%	25.0%	16.8%	6.9%	9.8%	5.1%	12.4%		
GRAVITY	Gravity - Developed		8,292	36,706		584	2,905			1,762	1,015	730	1,465	85	53,544	92,329
	Gravity - Undeveloped	277	1,451	9,555	1,747	691		2,949	7	1,456	5,653	1,006	10,695	3,298	38,785	
	Percent of total ----	5.9%	3.9%	15.2%	34.8%	0.7%	15.8%	80.4%	0.8%	7.1%	1.7%	2.1%	35.2%	3.9%		
OTHER	Volume Gun - Stationary										152	37		74	263	13,067
	Volume Gun - Traveller		25	207		150					24	22		510	938	
	Solid Set (underground sprinkler)	140		8		691	25			95	254			734	1,947	
	Hand Move (sprinkler above ground)	1,366	111	466	591	858	174			179	934	80	157	365	5,281	
	Micro - Spray - Sprinkler		195			135				51	39	15	15	51	501	
	Micro - Drip - Trickle						20			7	264	75	159	2,165	2,690	
	Other Application Use					982					111		354		1,447	
Percent of total ----	32.0%	0.1%	0.2%	11.8%	1.5%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	2.0%	4.5%		0.9%	
<b>Total Acres Covered</b>		<b>4,704</b>	<b>248,320</b>	<b>303,793</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>187,269</b>	<b>18,330</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>45,361</b>	<b>385,896</b>	<b>81,382</b>	<b>34,553</b>	<b>86,466</b>	<b>1,405,675</b>	<b>1,405,675</b>

Note: Information for RCID is for 2014 irrigation season. Information for AID and LID is for 2016 irrigation season.



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>ACRES</b>										
Low Pressure Pivot	773,538	802,173	856,707	879,651	923,391	957,117	991,859	1,038,024	1,072,113	1,115,693
High Pressure Pivot	160,665	156,784	126,864	126,430	119,449	116,436	110,733	107,761	93,052	77,393
Wheel move	210,606	198,043	189,410	179,837	165,561	157,056	145,124	118,962	112,091	107,193
Gravity	141,885	145,879	136,709	126,217	118,307	114,122	106,764	107,129	97,421	92,329
Other	11,935	11,826	11,626	12,444	8,785	8,941	9,698	9,731	12,807	13,067

**Figure 5. On-farm Irrigation Methods within the 13 Irrigation Districts**

**Table 4. Acres on the Assessment Roll within the 13 Irrigation Districts**

YEAR	AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	TOTAL
1980	3,104	164,889	229,110	4,477	112,562	10,797	3,710	1,776	33,681	293,126	70,368	33,544	76,029	<b>1,037,173</b>
1981	3,096	174,641	230,553	4,457	113,845	10,963	3,710	1,776	35,385	299,548	70,819	33,417	79,633	<b>1,061,843</b>
1982	3,127	179,613	239,651	4,423	114,919	11,647	3,710	1,716	39,130	301,446	71,529	33,383	81,864	<b>1,086,158</b>
1983	2,916	181,174	244,099	4,440	116,745	12,357	3,710	1,776	39,148	313,728	72,623	33,448	81,480	<b>1,107,644</b>
1984	3,051	183,529	244,243	4,440	117,869	13,047	3,710	1,776	41,729	319,712	72,971	33,534	82,974	<b>1,122,585</b>
1985	3,399	185,034	246,658	4,460	118,883	14,218	3,710	1,319	44,990	328,063	73,063	33,854	84,245	<b>1,141,896</b>
1986	3,444	189,202	247,804	4,460	126,307	14,579	3,690	1,210	44,950	331,493	73,314	34,336	83,924	<b>1,158,713</b>
1987	3,444	190,263	249,372	4,479	128,867	14,885	3,690	1,210	44,407	334,285	73,654	34,450	85,405	<b>1,168,411</b>
1988	3,435	192,424	252,432	4,709	131,565	15,030	3,690	1,210	44,196	339,091	73,602	34,615	86,198	<b>1,182,197</b>
1989	3,500	194,977	256,353	4,729	133,620	15,569	3,700	1,210	44,144	342,451	74,898	34,818	87,242	<b>1,197,211</b>
1990	3,500	199,980	260,523	4,742	135,632	15,099	3,728	1,210	44,044	349,849	74,568	34,769	88,480	<b>1,216,124</b>
1991	3,527	201,070	263,889	4,762	137,719	16,665	3,728	1,210	44,305	350,108	77,740	34,687	88,112	<b>1,227,522</b>
1992	3,519	202,499	269,462	4,800	139,688	16,391	3,734	1,210	44,279	351,393	78,177	34,868	87,949	<b>1,237,969</b>
1993	3,519	204,466	270,008	4,780	138,095	16,775	3,737	1,210	44,229	353,039	78,412	34,772	87,453	<b>1,240,495</b>
1994	3,519	205,983	272,024	4,780	141,517	16,785	3,727	1,210	44,219	353,466	78,629	34,438	86,725	<b>1,247,022</b>
1995	3,519	207,652	273,848	4,780	143,608	17,908	3,727	1,210	43,678	356,618	78,676	34,428	86,942	<b>1,256,594</b>
1996	3,519	209,560	276,405	4,760	147,241	18,169	3,727	1,210	44,315	358,399	79,069	34,506	87,258	<b>1,268,138</b>
1997	3,519	209,686	279,966	4,760	150,843	18,300	3,713	1,210	44,810	360,659	79,788	34,353	86,284	<b>1,277,891</b>
1998	3,519	210,690	280,573	4,769	153,365	18,300	3,722	1,210	45,533	360,780	80,455	34,352	86,771	<b>1,284,039</b>
1999	3,609	211,152	281,107	4,769	154,886	18,300	3,722	1,210	45,751	367,161	81,984	34,352	88,131	<b>1,296,134</b>
2000	3,609	210,352	281,720	4,763	157,825	18,300	3,722	1,210	45,888	369,771	82,257	34,329	87,236	<b>1,300,982</b>
2001	3,611	209,927	281,710	4,763	163,878	18,300	3,712	1,210	46,235	370,925	82,261	34,329	87,924	<b>1,308,785</b>
2002	3,611	214,279	282,516	4,763	163,870	18,300	3,712	1,210	46,304	371,319	82,284	34,423	96,512	<b>1,323,103</b>
2003	3,611	214,585	282,961	4,763	164,288	18,320	3,712	1,210	46,304	372,114	82,562	34,423	96,646	<b>1,325,499</b>
2004	3,611	216,533	283,625	4,763	175,568	18,320	3,712	1,210	46,296	372,979	82,515	34,093	96,535	<b>1,339,760</b>
2005	3,608	219,733	283,706	4,763	175,628	18,320	3,561	1,210	46,296	372,619	82,533	34,081	96,415	<b>1,342,473</b>
2006	3,608	221,677	284,074	4,763	175,636	18,320	3,561	1,101	46,306	372,618	82,527	34,025	96,100	<b>1,344,316</b>
2007	3,699	231,713	284,419	5,205	175,913	18,300	3,654	1,101	46,306	372,996	82,804	34,044	96,091	<b>1,356,245</b>
2008	3,699	233,869	285,086	5,126	176,069	18,300	3,700	1,101	46,293	373,162	82,600	34,069	96,079	<b>1,359,153</b>
2009	3,699	233,438	294,612	4,706	176,201	18,300	3,700	1,101	46,303	373,092	82,569	34,325	96,045	<b>1,368,091</b>
2010	4,389	233,925	290,429	4,793	176,282	18,300	3,700	1,101	46,302	373,018	82,728	34,370	95,628	<b>1,364,965</b>
2011	4,390	234,014	294,373	4,848	176,187	18,300	3,617	1,101	46,302	374,408	82,773	34,382	95,754	<b>1,370,449</b>
2012	4,376	234,327	294,620	4,840	177,593	18,300	3,616	1,101	46,402	373,835	82,750	34,382	95,788	<b>1,371,930</b>
2013	4,376	241,604	296,619	4,853	179,014	18,300	3,698	1,101	46,500	380,371	82,822	34,393	95,776	<b>1,389,427</b>
2014	4,511	254,909	297,884	4,876	179,719	18,300	3,698	1,101	46,500	388,039	83,263	34,395	95,641	<b>1,412,836</b>
2015	4,607	258,114	298,763	4,898	180,007	18,300	3,711	1,101	46,500	390,497	83,584	34,391	95,516	<b>1,419,989</b>
2016	4,705	259,792	299,762	5,031	182,716	18,300	3,733	1,101	46,500	393,034	84,045	34,383	95,475	<b>1,428,577</b>
2017	4,705	260,008	301,428	5,031	184,831	18,300	3,647	1,091	46,500	395,991	84,431	34,386	95,320	<b>1,435,669</b>
2018	4,714	260,659	303,652	5,266	187,984	18,300	3,647	1,091	46,500	402,014	85,620	34,310	95,964	<b>1,449,721</b>

Notes: Assessment roll acres include "irrigation", "terminable" and "annual" acres. Only "irrigation" and "terminable" acres are considered in district expansion limits. In 2018, irrigation districts reported 9,574 annual acres.

**Table 5. Acres Actually Irrigated within the 13 Irrigation Districts**

YEAR	AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	TOTAL
1980	2,500	134,493	212,524	4,476	95,979	8,000	2,900	600	19,137	251,914	63,202	12,607	43,986	852,318
1981	2,500	140,300	216,200	4,476	90,552	8,650	2,783	0	19,462	259,564	66,206	15,064	28,389	854,146
1982	1,200	152,144	216,620	3,000	104,533	8,500	3,154	650	25,169	268,916	67,305	10,054	41,996	903,241
1983	1,200	168,461	231,125	3,000	108,141	9,000	3,154	650	28,055	288,969	68,474	12,734	46,638	969,601
1984	1,200	173,334	238,000	3,000	102,301	10,200	3,154	600	34,728	300,071	69,847	12,313	46,638	995,386
1985	2,933	174,087	244,763	3,664	114,635	13,000	3,184	700	36,286	305,560	70,133	12,620	49,666	1,031,231
1986	2,933	174,903	246,916	3,600	113,663	13,000	3,184	700	36,008	307,875	69,928	13,146	48,000	1,033,856
1987	2,200	178,482	245,514	4,076	119,562	12,400	3,321	700	36,008	305,964	69,413	12,526	46,984	1,037,150
1988	2,500	173,400	241,494	3,900	124,555	13,436	3,100	500	36,496	316,223	69,581	14,536	52,950	1,052,671
1989	1,962	181,106	249,623	3,900	127,330	13,555	2,000	0	35,766	323,400	70,278	11,693	52,153	1,072,766
1990	2,446	183,147	253,261	4,500	127,439	14,000	2,500	0	36,911	338,274	73,329	11,523	49,000	1,096,330
1991	2,473	182,932	246,083	4,200	130,989	15,000	2,880	650	32,847	319,745	73,169	11,548	48,300	1,070,816
1992	2,519	182,543	256,342	4,200	131,305	15,240	2,880	0	36,788	324,477	74,229	15,499	43,889	1,089,911
1993	0	184,463	259,778	0	67,565	0	0	0	0	262,718	66,158	0	40,007	880,689
1994	1,940	187,247	259,942	4,200	133,803	11,425	3,277	734	36,291	330,949	73,949	14,255	47,335	1,105,347
1995	765	192,328	263,576	1,000	100,589	3,250	3,300	643	16,473	289,173	72,108	5,035	39,130	987,370
1996	2,145	196,055	271,075	4,277	143,147	14,341	3,355	734	39,662	339,098	74,766	14,135	68,710	1,171,500
1997	2,476	197,904	274,880	4,600	145,061	13,479	3,600	794	39,484	342,234	76,083	19,205	62,448	1,182,248
1998	1,930	198,197	274,942	4,600	122,379	11,189	3,228	1,055	32,259	342,758	76,872	17,276	67,643	1,154,328
1999	1,870	198,060	277,723	4,735	145,782	14,723	3,510	1,210	38,966	355,988	79,166	17,407	51,032	1,190,172
2000	2,361	199,873	278,956	4,763	154,300	15,427	3,510	0	42,062	352,372	79,206	19,741	64,414	1,216,985
2001	3,155	201,859	279,354	4,763	160,657	17,520	3,510	0	39,326	339,666	76,653	21,708	71,158	1,219,329
2002	2,422	202,807	281,070	4,763	162,624	14,717	3,510	1,149	37,221	342,053	76,245	20,364	75,635	1,224,580
2003	2,386	202,974	280,624	4,763	162,779	15,579	3,510	1,194	42,210	351,257	76,884	22,660	67,540	1,234,360
2004	2,386	203,007	283,625	4,763	175,406	14,489	3,510	800	38,461	353,085	76,277	21,735	54,666	1,232,210
2005	2,361	192,899	282,267	4,763	175,206	13,044	3,510	800	36,611	346,596	77,522	20,780	56,186	1,212,544
2006	2,361	198,111	280,753	4,763	175,184	13,232	3,510	0	41,156	335,269	76,765	22,771	43,136	1,197,011
2007	2,361	201,286	284,419	4,763	174,673	14,676	3,509	600	42,573	345,935	77,068	22,021	40,716	1,214,600
2008	2,361	206,283	280,691	4,763	175,886	13,420	3,509	0	38,617	352,564	77,132	21,735	48,126	1,225,087
2009	2,361	211,577	285,191	4,706	174,487	14,866	3,500	800	40,174	352,104	77,571	23,383	64,196	1,254,915
2010	150	182,483	235,371	0	174,518	5,688	500	374	17,481	340,078	72,989	17,333	48,700	1,095,665
2011	2,961	202,478	294,569	4,714	175,683	12,774	500	770	37,163	346,079	75,048	21,003	42,270	1,216,012
2012	2,797	208,217	294,748	4,625	177,593	14,175	535	878	39,560	338,439	76,775	22,655	52,483	1,233,480
2013	3,285	217,417	295,923	1,736	178,697	14,386	608	770	39,839	338,588	76,002	22,708	49,791	1,239,750
2014	1,611	224,952	297,015	1,736	179,296	14,305	1,801	897	37,511	362,254	75,838	21,044	60,587	1,278,847
2015	1,611	228,480	297,930	1,736	179,625	16,182	1,746	897	43,378	370,590	77,123	34,391	67,800	1,321,489
2016	2,467	226,492	299,336	3,863	182,160	16,387	1,746	897	43,743	374,554	77,801	22,757	65,735	1,317,938
2017	2,467	242,150	301,309	3,863	184,565	16,423	2,089	897	45,183	377,047	77,996	34,099	68,131	1,356,219
2018	2,468	239,295	303,673	3,863	187,269	16,120	2,517	897	46,968	381,529	78,797	34,310	75,473	1,373,179

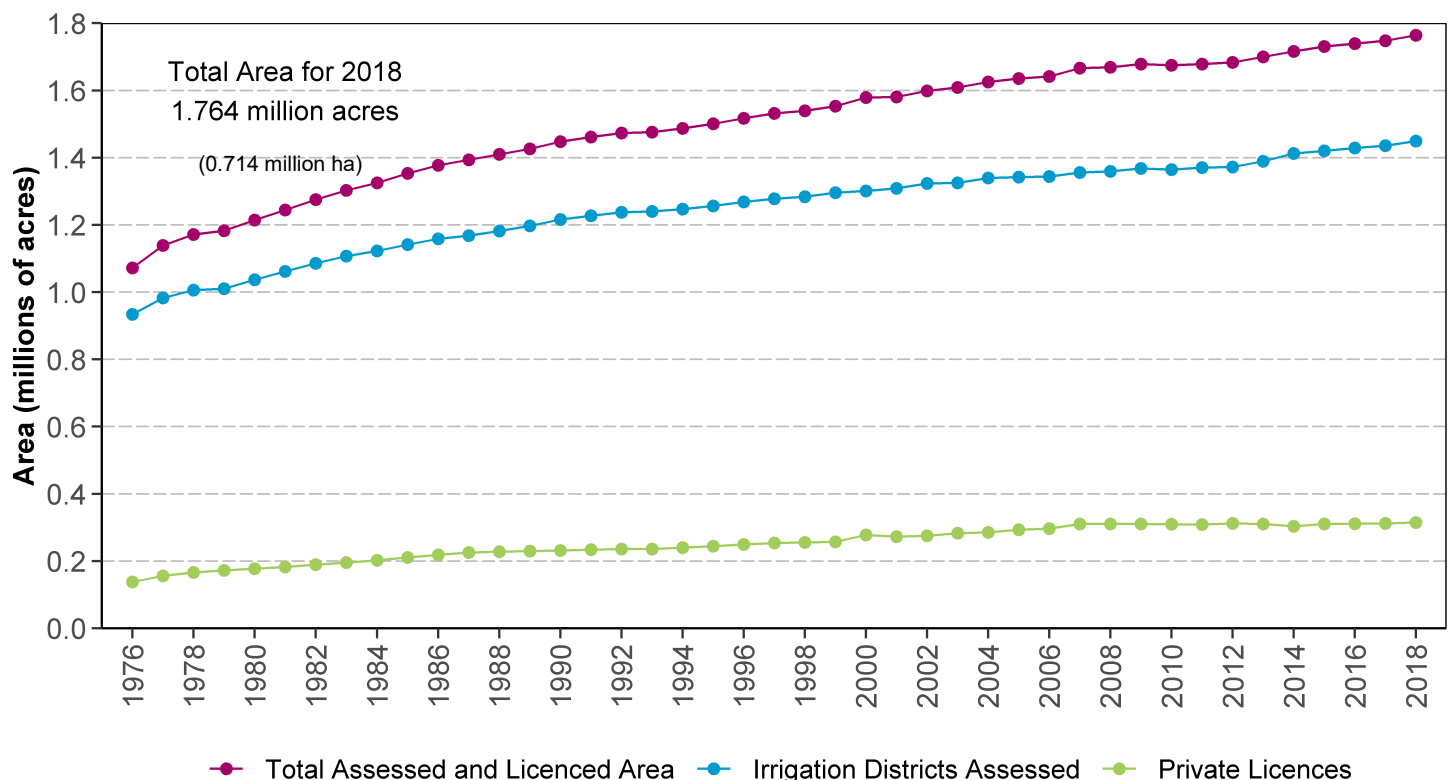


**Table 6. Private Water Licences for Irrigation**

There are 2,921 individual irrigation projects, outside of the 13 irrigation districts, irrigating approximately 314,672 acres in Alberta. These projects vary in size from 1 acre to over several thousand acres of agricultural or horticultural production. Each of these projects is licensed to an individual, a group of producers or to private or public lands (ie. golf courses or parks). The licencing is regulated by Alberta Environment and Parks.

RIVER BASIN	TOTAL ACRES IRRIGATED	NO. OF LICENCES 1 TO 100 AC.	NO. OF LICENCES 101 TO 300 AC.	NO. OF LICENCES OVER 300 AC.	TOTAL NO. OF LICENCES
ATHABASCA RIVER	1,985	43	6	0	49
MILK RIVER	18,874	98	43	14	155
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER	27,089	311	56	15	382
PEACE RIVER	4,574	65	10	2	77
SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER	262,150	1,615	505	138	2,258
Sub-Basin					
- Bow River	25,892	149	60	18	227
- Little Bow River	33,564	126	73	26	225
- Oldman River (Lower)	17,752	30	28	14	72
- Oldman River (Upper)	7,513	61	20	4	85
- Red Deer River	46,275	417	94	18	529
- South Saskatchewan River	47,026	534	81	23	638
- Waterton / Belly / St. Mary Rivers	50,316	138	70	17	225
- Willow Creek	33,812	160	79	18	257
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314,672</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>2,921</b>

Note: - Oldman (upper) reach is defined as upstream of the Belly River confluence  
 - Oldman (lower) reach is defined as downstream of the Belly River confluence  
 - 25,000 acres from the Waterton / Belly / St. Mary Rivers category is for the Blood Tribe Agricultural Project  
 - does not include irrigation licences issued to irrigation districts in southern Alberta  
 - licence authorization as of January 2019 obtained from Alberta Environment and Parks



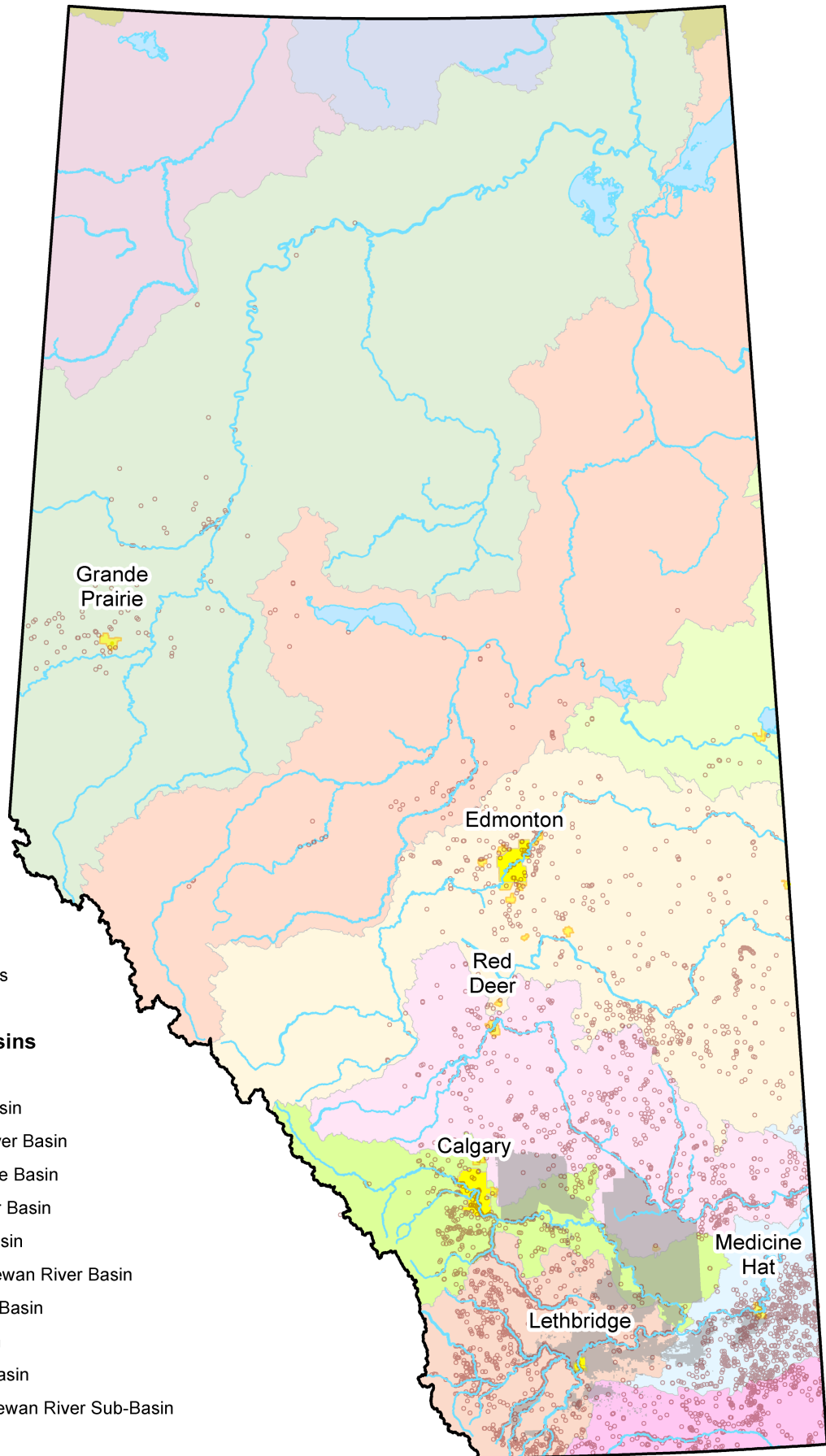
**Figure 6. Growth in Irrigation Area**

**LEGEND**

- Private Irrigation
- ~ Major Rivers
- Irrigation Districts
- Major Cities

**Alberta's River Basins**

- Hay River Basin
- Buffalo River Basin
- Peace/Slave River Basin
- Great Slave Lake Basin
- Athabasca River Basin
- Beaver River Basin
- North Saskatchewan River Basin
- Red Deer River Basin
- Bow River Basin
- Oldman River Basin
- South Saskatchewan River Sub-Basin
- Milk River Basin



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**Figure 7. Location of Private Irrigation**

**Table 7. Irrigation Districts Irrigation Rates (\$ per irrigation acre per year)**

YEAR	AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID
1982	\$2.50	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$5.00	\$12.00	\$6.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$6.25	\$12.00	\$10.75	\$3.25	\$6.30
1983	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$6.75	\$8.00	\$12.50	\$6.00	\$5.20	\$3.00	\$6.50	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$3.25	\$6.50
1984	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$12.50	\$6.00	\$5.20	\$3.00	\$6.50	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$3.25	\$6.75
1985	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$7.00	\$7.50	\$12.50	\$6.00	\$5.20	\$4.00	\$6.50	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$3.25	\$7.25
1986	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$7.25	\$7.50	\$12.50	\$6.00	\$5.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$13.00	\$11.00	\$3.25	\$7.47
1987	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$12.50	\$6.00	\$5.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$13.00	\$11.00	\$3.25	\$7.47
1988	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$12.50	\$6.00	\$5.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$13.00	\$12.00	\$3.25	\$7.70
1989	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$13.50	\$6.00	\$6.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$13.25	\$12.00	\$3.50	\$8.00
1989	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$13.50	\$6.00	\$6.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$13.25	\$12.00	\$3.50	\$8.00
1990	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$8.50	\$8.00	\$13.50	\$6.00	\$6.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$3.75	\$11.00
1991	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$8.50	\$7.00	\$13.50	\$6.00	\$6.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$4.00	\$13.00
1992	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$8.50	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$6.00	\$6.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$4.25	\$13.50
1993	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$8.50	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$6.00	\$6.20	\$6.00	\$6.50	\$14.25	\$12.00	\$4.50	\$13.50
1994	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$8.50	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$6.50	\$6.20	\$6.00	\$7.00	\$15.25	\$12.00	\$4.50	\$14.75
1995	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$8.50	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$7.00	\$16.15	\$12.00	\$4.50	\$14.75
1996	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$8.50	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$7.50	\$16.15	\$12.00	\$6.50	\$15.25
1997	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$7.50	\$16.15	\$12.00	\$6.75	\$15.25
1998	\$8.00	\$13.50	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$16.65	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$16.25
1999	\$8.00	\$14.50	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$17.00	\$12.00	\$7.25	\$16.25
2000	\$8.00	\$14.50	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$17.50	\$12.00	\$7.50	\$16.25
2001	\$8.00	\$14.50	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$17.90	\$11.00	\$7.50	\$16.25
2002	\$8.00	\$14.50	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$14.00	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$8.50	\$16.90	\$11.00	\$7.75	\$16.25
2003	\$9.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$13.58	\$8.50	\$17.90	\$11.00	\$8.25	\$16.25
2004	\$9.00	\$14.50	\$0.00	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$13.58	\$9.50	\$17.90	\$11.00	\$8.25	\$16.25
2005	\$9.00	\$14.50	\$0.00	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$8.50	\$10.00	\$13.58	\$9.50	\$17.90	\$11.00	\$8.25	\$16.25
2006	\$9.00	\$14.50	\$0.00	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$8.50	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$9.50	\$18.50	\$11.00	\$8.25	\$16.25
2007	\$9.00	\$14.50	\$0.00	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$10.00	\$18.00	\$9.50	\$18.75	\$8.00	\$8.25	\$16.25
2008	\$10.00	\$14.50	\$0.00	\$11.50	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$21.00	\$9.50	\$18.75	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$16.25
2009	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$11.50	\$14.00	\$9.00	\$12.00	\$22.50	\$9.50	\$19.00	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$16.25
2010	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$11.50	\$14.00	\$9.50	\$12.00	\$21.50	\$9.50	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$16.25
2011	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$11.50	\$14.00	\$9.50	\$12.00	\$20.50	\$9.50	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$8.50	\$16.25
2012	\$11.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$11.50	\$14.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$20.50	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$9.00	\$16.25
2013	\$11.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$11.50	\$14.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$20.50	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$18.00
2014	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$23.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$8.00	\$11.00	\$18.00
2015	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$18.00
2016	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$14.00	\$11.00	\$18.00
2017	\$13.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$12.00	\$22.00	\$16.00	\$11.50	\$18.00
2018	\$13.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$12.50	\$16.00	\$12.50	\$12.00	\$25.00	\$13.00	\$22.00	\$18.00	\$12.00	\$18.32

Note: Some districts levy the additional surcharges for overallocation, pipeline and pressure delivery.

**Table 8. Irrigation District Expansion Limits and Water Licence Allocations**

BASIN	IRRIGATION DISTRICT	EXPANSION LIMIT (ACRES)	WATER SOURCE	OTHER PURPOSES* (AC-FT)	TOTAL LICENSED VOLUME (AC-FT)
BOW RIVER SUB-BASIN	BRID	295,000	Bow River	2,380	490,000
	EID	311,000	Bow River	5,000	761,000
	WID	95,000	Bow River	3,500	190,500
OLDMAN RIVER SUB-BASIN	AID	7,500	Belly River	700	9,000
	LID	6,000	Belly River	1,000	12,000
	LNID	227,000	Oldman River	39,068	334,450
	MID	18,300	Belly, Waterton, and St. Mary Rivers	740	34,000
	MVID	4,240	Belly River	340	8,000
	RID	46,500	Belly, Waterton, and St. Mary Rivers	4,500	81,000
	SMRID	412,000	Belly, Waterton, and St. Mary Rivers	12,000	722,000
	TID	92,200	Belly, Waterton, and St. Mary Rivers	8,000	158,000
	UID	34,400	Belly and Waterton Rivers	1,000	65,988
SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER SUB-BASIN	RCID	1,210	Gros Ventre Creek	n/a	3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,550,350</b>		<b>78,228</b>	<b>2,868,938</b>

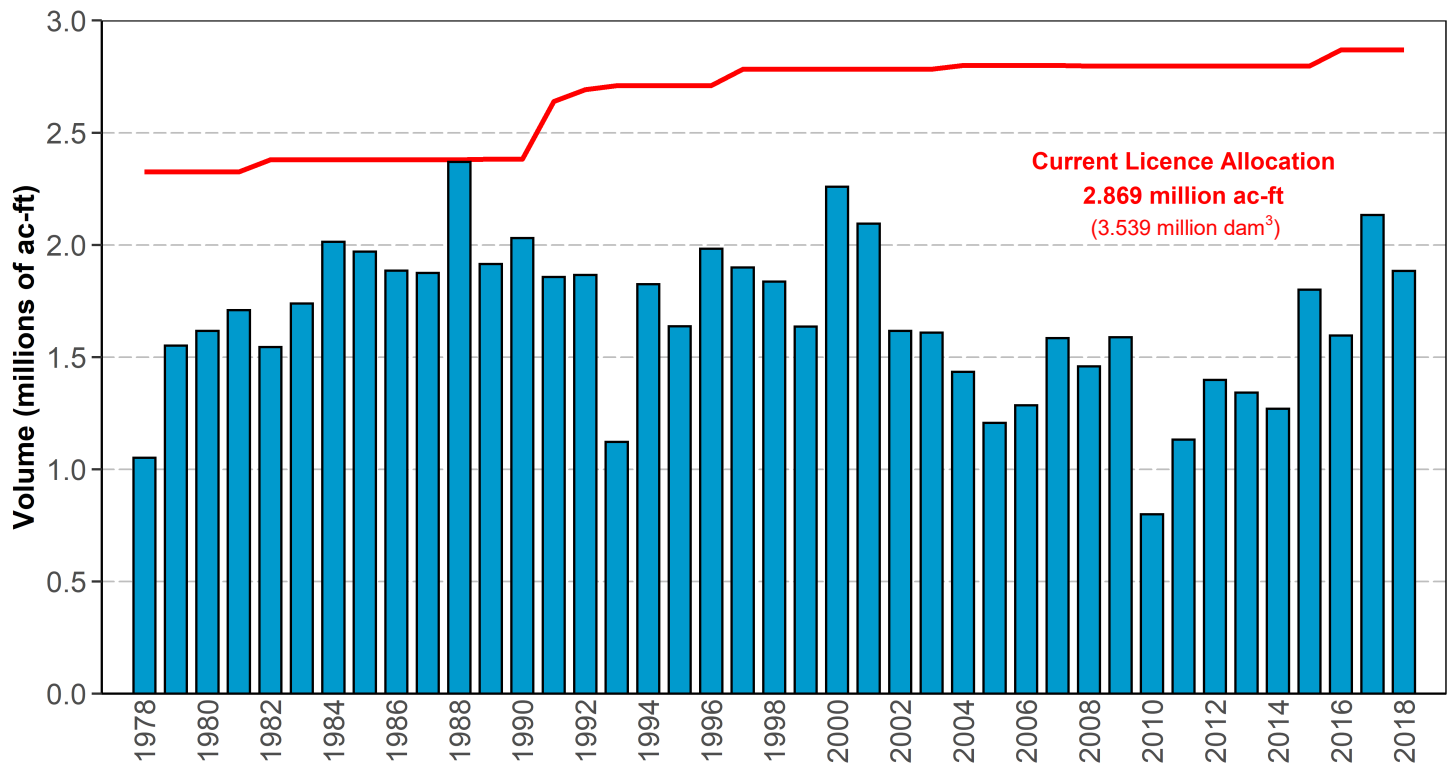
Note: The other purposes volumes may be used for purposes other than irrigation, as set out in the districts water licences. Other purpose uses of water volumes licensed to irrigation districts include non-irrigation uses such as municipal, rural water supply, agricultural, commercial, industrial, rural residential, management of fish/wildlife, habitat enhancement and recreation.

\* Water volumes allocated to other purposes are included in the total licensed volumes.

**Table 9. Gross Annual Diversions for Irrigation Districts**

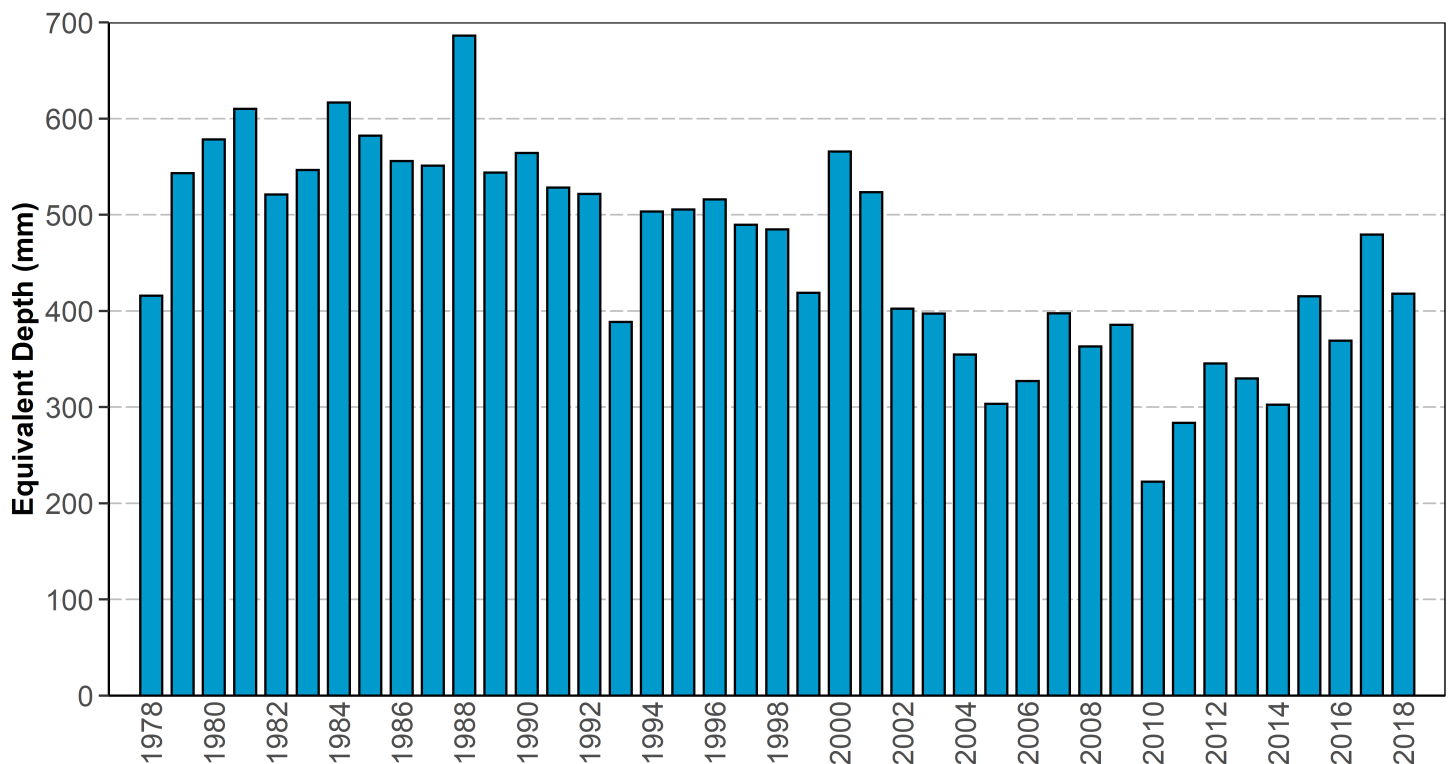
YEAR	BOW RIVER SUB-BASIN			OLDMAN RIVER SUB-BASIN									SOUTH SASK RIVER SUB-BASIN	TOTALS
	BRID	EID	WID	AID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	RCID	
1985	358,722	655,188	158,897	5,020	8,500	184,029	18,533	4,250	27,302	425,500	95,751	24,193	3,827	1,969,712
1986	311,000	680,592	131,333	4,074	6,858	182,159	14,114	3,212	22,045	406,536	101,597	20,106	1,832	1,885,458
1987	309,000	639,928	129,712	4,392	5,644	181,934	14,649	3,180	40,559	426,434	98,621	19,958	1,321	1,875,332
1988	423,000	730,274	171,868	6,910	9,398	222,936	22,918	6,066	60,531	563,621	121,668	30,462	256	2,369,908
1989	333,000	605,148	122,416	4,613	3,517	198,789	12,338	2,750	30,728	504,255	78,396	18,372	122	1,914,444
1990	380,907	689,178	128,091	3,754	5,328	191,899	13,555	3,290	32,000	467,244	98,572	16,133	298	2,030,249
1991	334,792	629,872	147,547	3,556	4,468	184,737	12,712	2,662	30,702	391,634	94,956	17,003	1,775	1,856,416
1992	336,878	625,650	135,387	2,170	11,216	136,925	15,695	4,118	36,210	441,745	101,122	18,628	0	1,865,744
1993	210,340	423,551	114,309	2,126	1,824	61,753	4,848	988	13,574	218,375	59,278	8,107	3,300	1,122,373
1994	364,126	559,476	132,104	4,110	4,319	179,663	13,895	3,325	28,328	415,162	103,028	16,827	758	1,825,121
1995	302,305	602,098	116,254	1,802	1,548	110,114	4,248	861	19,953	390,285	79,818	7,710	208	1,637,204
1996	328,182	615,478	117,065	4,035	4,892	206,206	12,506	2,660	45,527	498,483	127,436	19,832	1,085	1,983,387
1997	343,380	593,782	116,740	6,051	5,193	188,378	12,564	1,529	38,043	455,300	115,582	20,364	1,760	1,898,666
1998	303,565	638,500	142,367	4,874	5,331	157,758	9,671	2,323	33,834	405,000	116,300	14,895	1,726	1,836,144
1999	298,524	426,788	88,410	3,485	11,415	196,906	25,178	2,499	42,960	411,532	105,208	20,900	1,700	1,635,505
2000	417,897	675,238	156,400	6,000	11,240	263,413	35,375	6,700	58,202	451,700	140,046	37,200	0	2,259,411
2001*	413,780	685,000	160,000	3,952	7,593	308,236	21,173	6,814	40,207	325,700	94,770	27,526	0	2,094,751
2002	333,541	430,000	149,577	2,938	9,835	112,143	10,788	3,033	23,552	466,700	53,324	21,283	N/A	1,616,714
2003	279,798	459,700	128,700	4,598	7,964	201,812	20,711	5,889	49,723	330,600	86,500	32,500	N/A	1,608,495
2004	230,817	417,370	114,000	3,440	5,425	166,276	12,391	2,660	28,224	367,500	64,399	21,600	N/A	1,434,102
2005	182,819	318,000	120,400	4,000	6,243	134,088	8,859	2,067	27,046	316,200	72,487	13,717	1,190	1,207,116
2006	210,741	335,210	72,000	3,681	5,341	165,752	14,114	3,987	37,049	334,100	82,448	20,390	0	1,284,813
2007	256,518	417,830	68,000	3,235	6,330	235,330	18,238	3,600	47,322	394,700	100,907	31,801	N/A	1,583,811
2008	238,000	409,400	85,000	3,584	6,389	178,750	12,659	2,609	34,348	381,200	85,829	21,054	200	1,459,022
2009	295,557	435,650	120,829	2,651	5,378	179,945	14,885	2,138	45,705	370,100	97,532	17,506	200	1,588,076
2010	156,116	210,500	65,850	1,938	2,383	71,950	5,351	1,013	21,903	201,700	53,135	7,264	116	799,219
2011	151,700	310,100	85,985	2,902	8,028	132,388	15,233	2,393	32,534	286,000	84,909	19,073	530	1,131,775
2012	260,000	343,200	103,862	2,761	3,973	176,683	20,720	2,558	35,200	340,800	88,309	19,039	562**	1,397,105
2013	240,000	383,400	99,473	3,446	4,101	139,035	17,210	2,297	39,723	314,600	77,371	18,598	2,319	1,341,573
2014	222,191	371,000	113,666	3,113	5,928	120,097	13,552	1,801	31,448	297,600	71,874	16,565	700	1,269,535
2015	331,900	471,900	136,600	3,306	4,540	197,000	21,459	2,420	50,711	453,300	100,481	25,839	700	1,800,156
2016	328,085	371,100	109,865	3,848	4,564	206,730	20,325	2,233	39,704	402,600	84,313	21,864	367	1,595,598
2017	422,000	521,200	131,000	4,710	5,697	274,400	24,221	2,838	54,062	536,900	123,923	31,350	800	2,133,101
2018	290,400	495,500	136,000	3,648	9,363	223,918	26,529	2,475	53,799	504,000	105,352	30,680	1,569	1,883,233
PERCENT OF LICENCE (2018)	59.3%	65.1%	71.4%	40.5%	78.0%	67.0%	78.0%	30.9%	66.4%	69.8%	66.7%	46.3%	52.3%	65.6%
AVERAGE VOLUME (1976-2018)	302,827	513,716	123,836	3,786	6,170	171,152	15,169	3,036	34,353	387,694	92,987	20,624	1,022	1,673,651

Note: - Data is obtained from Water Survey of Canada (WSC), Alberta Environment and Irrigation Districts' annual reports. - \*Water rationing in effect for MID, RID, SMRID, TID, UID, AID, LID and MVID.  
 - RCID has a second supply from Ross Creek, but data has not been consistently recorded at that location. - \*\*RCID 2012 had zero diversion since the diversion structure was under construction;  
 - Diversion volume could include other allocation at the point of diversion for users other than irrigation districts (municipal, domestic, other agricultural, industrial, water management and environmental uses). 562 ac-ft was delivered for irrigation from Cavan Lake



**Figure 8. Irrigation Districts Gross Annual Diversion and Licence Allocation**

Note: Diversion data represent the gross diversion into and through the works of the irrigation districts and include volumes used directly for irrigation purposes, reservoir filling and the water supplied or licensed to municipal, domestic, other agricultural, industrial, environmental uses and water delivered to other licence holders through a conveyance agreement with the licence holder.

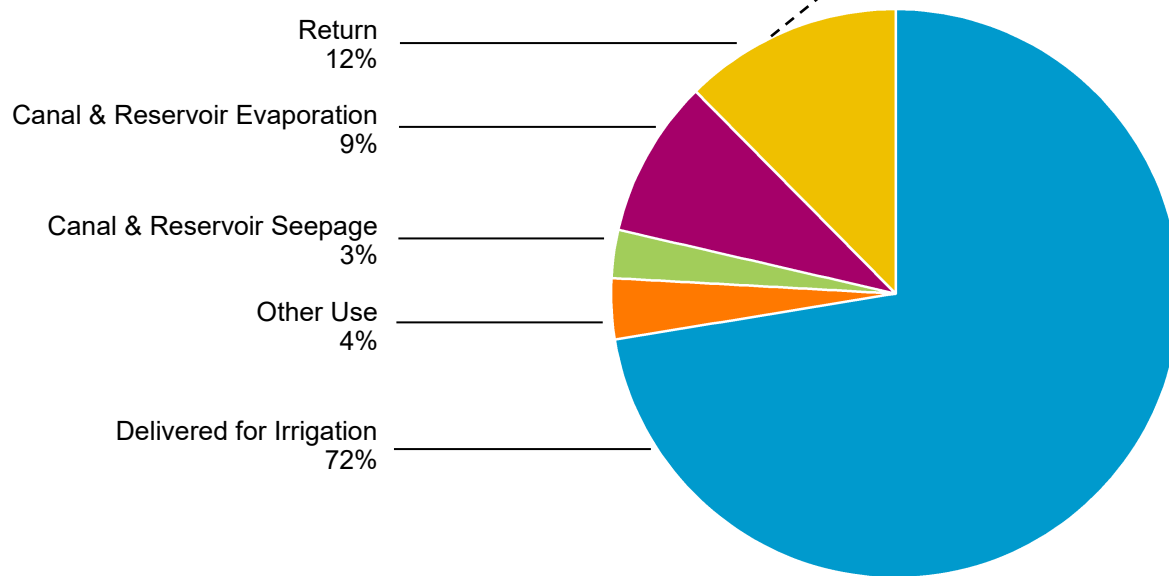


**Figure 9. Irrigation Districts Gross Diversion Equivalent Depth**

Note: Irrigation district equivalent depth is the annual gross diversion of water (into the works of all 13 irrigation districts), divided by the area actually irrigated. However, this “depth” also includes water used for net gains in reservoir storage, water diverted for other uses such as domestic, municipal, other agricultural, industrial, recreational and habitat enhancement purposes.

**Table 10. Irrigation Districts Water Balance**

WATER BALANCE CATEGORY	BOW RIVER BASIN	OLDMAN RIVER BASIN	IRRIGATION DISTRICTS
Gross Diversion	921,900	961,300	1,883,200
Net District Storage Change	1,300	9,900	11,200
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT USE</b>	<b>923,200</b>	<b>971,200</b>	<b>1,894,400</b>
Delivered for Irrigation	631,900	740,000	1,371,900
Delivered for Other Use	37,000	28,400	65,400
Canal & Reservoir Seepage	27,900	23,800	51,700
Canal & Reservoir Evaporation	101,100	69,200	170,300
Return	125,300	109,800	235,100
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS</b>	<b>923,200</b>	<b>971,200</b>	<b>1,894,400</b>



**Note:** Irrigation district reported values were used to estimate the water balance. Where district reporting was incomplete, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry calculated estimates.

**Gross Diversion** - Volume of water diverted from a lake, reservoir or the river system by irrigation districts.

**Net District Storage Change** - Net volume of water removed from internal irrigation district reservoirs for use. A negative number within brackets, indicates a net increase in reservoir storage volume over the irrigation season.

**Total District Use** - Total volume of water used from diversion and storage.

**Delivered for Irrigation** - Net volume of water supplied for irrigation purposes.

**Delivered for Other Use** - Volume of water supplied for other uses including municipal domestic, other agricultural, industrial, and environmental uses.

**Canal & Reservoir Seepage** - Water lost from seepage from reservoirs and canals.

**Canal & Reservoir Evaporation** - Water lost from evaporation from the surface of irrigation district canals and reservoirs.

**Return** - Volume of water returned to the river system.

**Total District Operations** - Total volume of water used for irrigation districts operations comprised of water delivered for irrigation, other use, seepage and evaporation, and water returned.

Table 11. Types of Conveyance Infrastructure within the 13 Irrigation Districts

IRRIGATION DISTRICT	REHABILITATED										UNREHABILITATED		TOTAL CONVEYANCE WORKS (KM)
	PIPELINES - CLOSED		PIPELINES - OPEN		MEMBRANE-LINED CANALS		CONCRETE-LINED CANALS		EARTH CANALS		UN-REHABILITATED CANALS		
	Length (km)	% of District Works	Length (km)	% of District Works	Length (km)	% of District Works	Length (km)	% of District Works	Length (km)	% of District Works	Length (km)	% of District Works	
<b>AID</b>	24.3	61.7%	0.2	0.5%	4.5	11.4%	0.0	0.0%	1.0	2.5%	9.4	23.9%	<b>39</b>
<b>BRID</b>	584.3	58.1%	6.2	0.6%	125.3	12.3%	6.4	0.6%	170.0	16.7%	118.8	11.7%	<b>1,011</b>
<b>EID</b>	1225.6	63.3%	28.4	1.5%	250.4	12.9%	0.0	0.0%	194.4	10.0%	236.7	12.2%	<b>1,936</b>
<b>LID</b>	29.5	53.9%	0.3	0.5%	2.0	3.7%	0.0	0.0%	11.8	21.5%	11.2	20.5%	<b>55</b>
<b>LNID</b>	537.2	70.3%	10.1	1.3%	50.3	6.6%	20.0	2.6%	64.6	8.5%	82.0	10.7%	<b>764</b>
<b>MID</b>	65.6	61.2%	1.5	1.4%	1.2	1.1%	0.3	0.3%	33.7	31.4%	4.9	4.6%	<b>107</b>
<b>MVID</b>	19.0	44.4%	1.8	4.2%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	17.0	39.7%	5.0	11.7%	<b>43</b>
<b>RCID</b>	12.2	83.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	2.5	17.0%	0.0	0.0%	<b>15</b>
<b>RID</b>	151.5	63.0%	2.5	1.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	68.0	28.3%	18.6	7.7%	<b>241</b>
<b>SMRID</b>	968.2	53.5%	23.7	1.3%	66.2	3.7%	47.7	2.6%	423.2	23.4%	282.3	15.6%	<b>1,811</b>
<b>TID</b>	196.4	56.7%	10.9	3.1%	56.5	16.3%	6.5	1.9%	57.0	16.4%	19.4	5.6%	<b>347</b>
<b>UID</b>	97.6	42.3%	24.0	10.4%	13.9	6.0%	0.2	0.1%	42.7	18.5%	52.6	22.8%	<b>231</b>
<b>WID</b>	249.0	24.2%	33.6	3.3%	94.0	9.1%	5.3	0.5%	164.1	15.9%	484.4	47.0%	<b>1,030</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,167</b>	<b>54.6%</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>7,629</b>
Headworks Owned by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP)												<b>339</b>	
Total Length of Conveyance System in Southern Alberta (km)												<b>7,968</b>	

Note: Rehabilitated infrastructure includes those work re-constructed through:

- the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program (IRP)
- Alberta Environment and Parks.
- district funded infrastructure projects



**Table 12. Irrigation District Infrastructure Length and Replacement Cost**

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS	CONVEYANCE WORKS		DRAINAGE WORKS		MAJOR STRUCTURES		TOTAL OF ALL WORKS	
	Length (km)	Replacement Cost (\$'000)	Length (km)	Replacement Cost (\$'000)	Number of Units	Replacement Cost (\$'000)	Length (km)	Replacement Cost (\$'000)
<b>AID</b>	39	\$11,155	19	\$314	0	\$0	<b>59</b>	<b>\$11,469</b>
<b>BRID</b>	1,011	\$365,779	780	\$16,832	22	\$97,753	<b>1,791</b>	<b>\$480,364</b>
<b>EID</b>	1,936	\$721,524	1,960	\$44,773	61	\$349,421	<b>3,896</b>	<b>\$1,115,718</b>
<b>LID</b>	55	\$12,779	5	\$160	0	\$0	<b>60</b>	<b>\$12,939</b>
<b>LNID</b>	764	\$262,443	247	\$7,393	2	\$2,880	<b>1,010</b>	<b>\$272,716</b>
<b>MID</b>	107	\$27,695	163	\$5,667	0	\$0	<b>270</b>	<b>\$33,362</b>
<b>MVID</b>	43	\$14,567	1	\$75	0	\$0	<b>44</b>	<b>\$14,642</b>
<b>RCID</b>	15	\$2,844	20	\$986	1	\$135	<b>34</b>	<b>\$3,965</b>
<b>RID</b>	241	\$60,052	218	\$10,822	0	\$0	<b>458</b>	<b>\$70,874</b>
<b>SMRID</b>	1,811	\$671,339	412	\$11,342	48	\$335,617	<b>2,224</b>	<b>\$1,018,298</b>
<b>TID</b>	347	\$131,503	84	\$4,660	12	\$14,168	<b>430</b>	<b>\$150,332</b>
<b>UID</b>	231	\$75,701	59	\$1,548	11	\$16,206	<b>290</b>	<b>\$93,455</b>
<b>WID</b>	1,030	\$355,171	938	\$24,801	13	\$18,180	<b>1,968</b>	<b>\$398,152</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>\$2,712,553</b>	<b>4,905</b>	<b>\$129,373</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>\$834,361</b>	<b>12,534</b>	<b>\$3,676,287</b>

Note: Total of "All Works" length values include the summation of conveyance and drainage works. Replacement cost is based on construction and material costs that were updated in 2012 .

**Table 13. Irrigation District Reservoirs**

LOCATION	RESERVOIR	APPROXIMATE DATE OF LIVE IMPOUNDMENT	IRRIGATION LIVE STORAGE (dam <sup>3</sup> )	IRRIGATION LIVE STORAGE (acre-feet)
BRID	Badger	1985	57,120	46,300
	'D' Reservoir	2005	350	280
	'H' Reservoir	1953	2,790	2,260
	Lost Lake	1973/1987*	5,060	4,100
	'PFRID' Reservoir	2005	570	480
	Scope	1953	12,930	10,480
	<b>Total storage</b>		<b>78,820</b>	<b>63,900</b>
EID	Bantry # 1	1968	1,090	880
	Bantry # 2	1967	4,150	3,360
	Cowoki Lake	1937	8,370	6,780
	Crawling Valley	1984	94,300	76,450
	'J' Reservoir	1949/1966*	1,460	1,180
	Kitsim	1980	19,470	15,790
	Lake Newell	1914	315,300	255,610
	One Tree	1935	5,660	4,590
	Rock Lake	1956	3,990	3,240
	Rolling Hills	1940/2003*	40,640	32,950
	Snake Lake	1997	18,620	15,100
Tilley "B"	1972	21,070	17,080	
	<b>Total storage</b>		<b>534,120</b>	<b>433,010</b>
LNID	Park Lake	1928	1,440	1,170
	Picture Butte	1936	1,490	1,210
	Vandenburg	1992	120	90
	<b>Total storage</b>		<b>3,050</b>	<b>2,470</b>
RID	Corner Lake	1925	500	400
	Craddock	1925	620	500
	Factory Lake	1925	370	300
	<b>Total storage</b>		<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,200</b>
SMRID	Bullshead	1954	130	100
	Chin	1954	207,370	168,120
	Cross Coulee	1954	2,090	1,700
	Forty Mile	1987	100,430	81,420
	Murray	1954	30,630	24,830
	North East	1954	2,820	2,290
	Raymond	1954	1,810	1,470
	Sauder	1953/1982*	45,240	36,680
	Seven Persons	1953	900	730
	Sherburne	1952	12,190	9,880
	Stafford	1954/1982*	21,790	17,670
Yellow Lake	1952	18,130	14,700	
	<b>Total storage</b>		<b>443,530</b>	<b>359,590</b>
TID	Fincastle	1952	3,770	3,060
	Horsefly	1950	6,370	5,170
	Taber Lake	1955	6,410	5,190
	<b>Total storage</b>		<b>16,550</b>	<b>13,420</b>
UID	Cochrane Lake	1923	3,130	2,540
WID	Chestermere	1944	5,090	4,130
	Langdon	1979/2014*	15,750	12,770
	<b>Total storage</b>		<b>20,840</b>	<b>16,900</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>1,101,530</b>	<b>893,010</b>

Note: All reservoirs are off-stream storage sites. \* Denotes year of reservoir enlargement

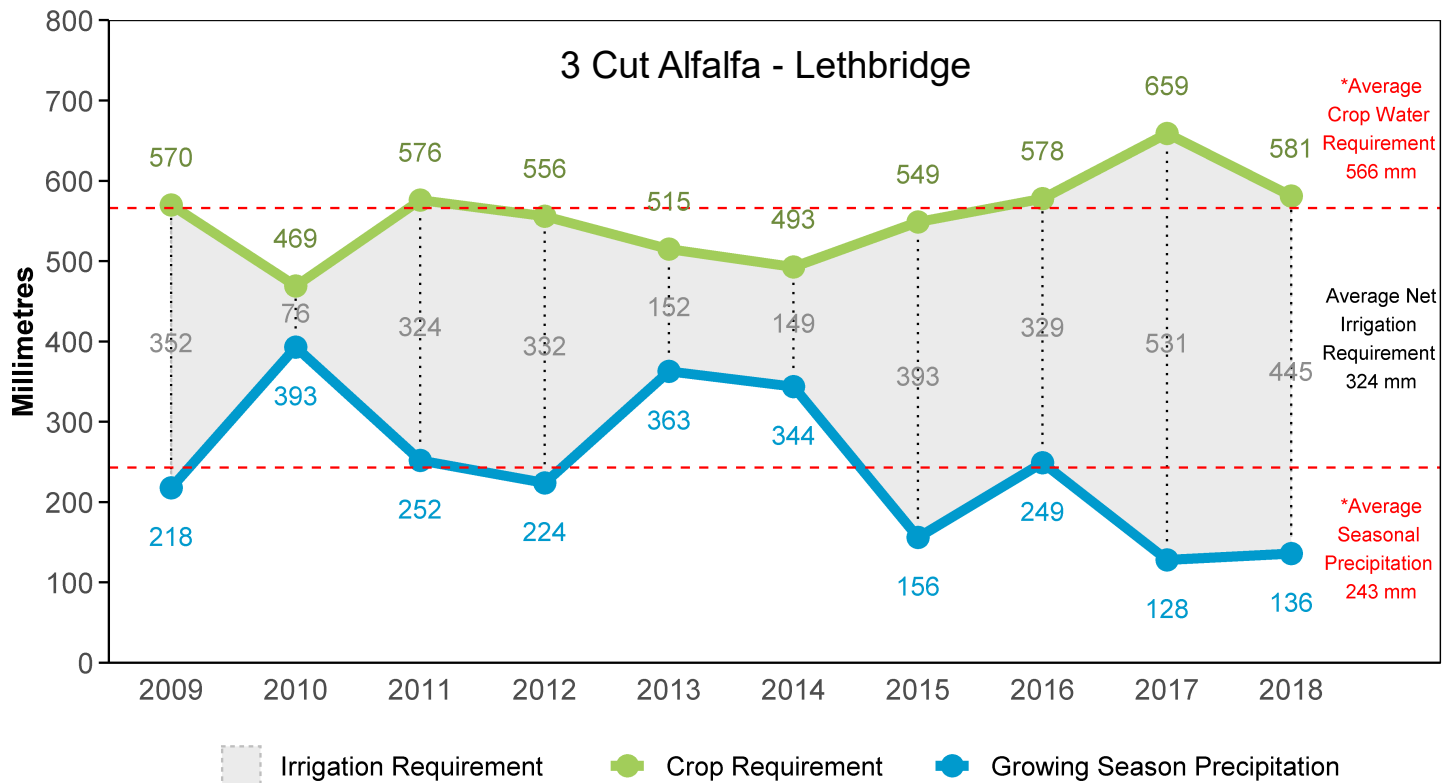
**Table 14. Provincially Owned and Operated Reservoirs Used by Irrigation**

SOURCE SUPPLY FOR:	RESERVOIR	APPROXIMATE DATE OF IMPOUNDMENT	LIVE STORAGE (dam <sup>3</sup> )	LIVE STORAGE (acre-feet)
BRID	Little Bow	1920	43,260	35,070
	McGregor	1914	351,060	284,600
	Travers *	1954	104,640	84,830
	<b>Total Storage</b>		<b>498,960</b>	<b>454,500</b>
LNID	Keho	1920	95,640	77,540
	Oldman River *	1991	490,180	397,390
	<b>Total Storage</b>		<b>585,820</b>	<b>474,930</b>
RCID	Cavan	1950	4,630	3,750
MVID, LID, AID	Payne	1942	8,690	7,040
St. Mary Project (SMRID, MID, TID, RID)	Jensen	1948	19,000	15,400
	Milk River Ridge	1957	127,300	103,200
	St. Mary *	1951	369,310	299,400
	Waterton *	1965	111,200	90,150
	<b>Total Storage</b>		<b>626,810</b>	<b>508,150</b>
Other	Chain Lakes *	1966	14,680	11,900
	Twin Valley Dam *	2003	60,700	49,210
	Pine Coulee	1998	51,000	41,350
	Women's Coulee	1949	360	290
	<b>Total Storage</b>		<b>126,740</b>	<b>102,750</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>1,851,650</b>	<b>1,501,120</b>

Note: Irrigation storage might be lower than live storage. \* denotes on-stream storage reservoir.

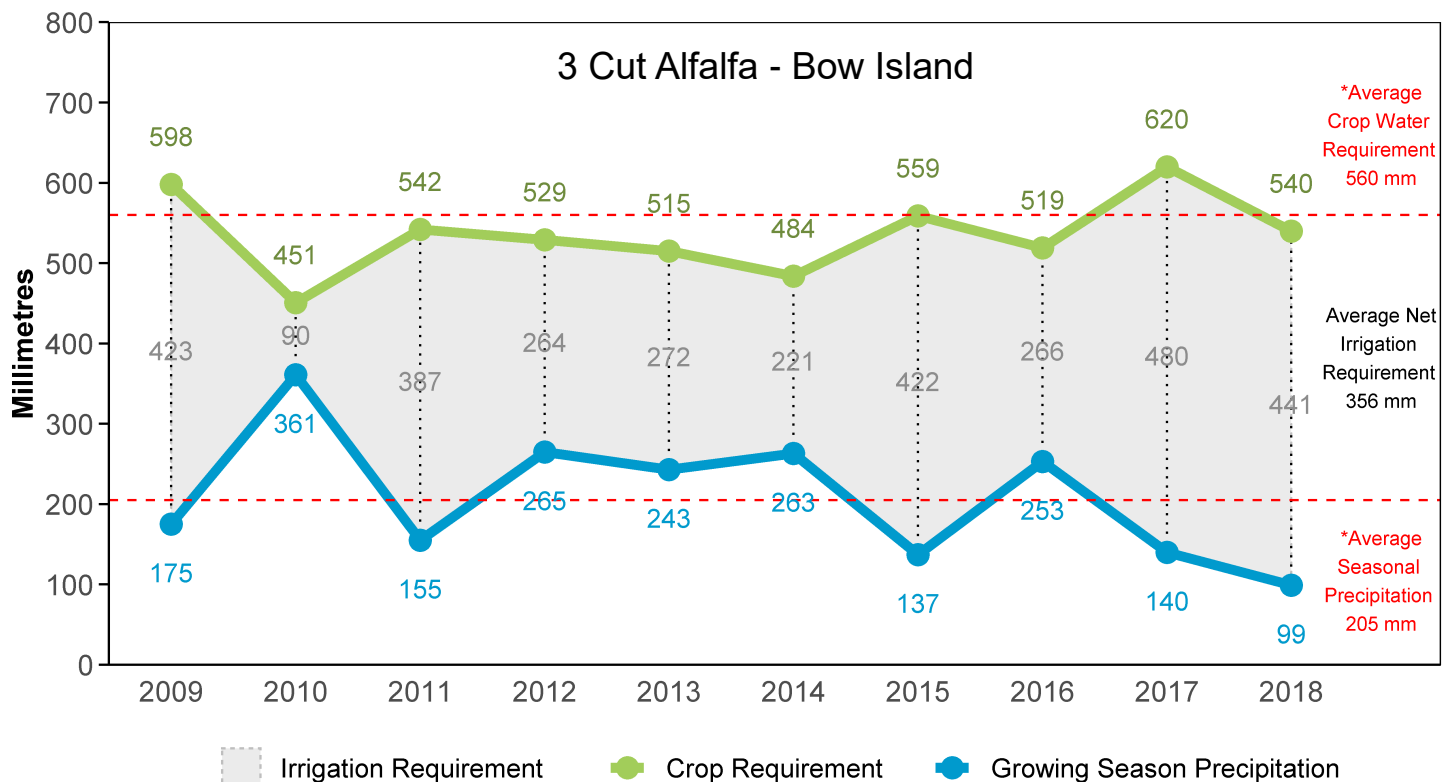
**Table 15. Hydroelectric Plants Associated with Irrigation Infrastructure**

LOCATION	COMMISSION DATE	OWNER	CAPACITY (MEGAWATTS)
Oldman Reservoir	2003	ATCO Power	32
Waterton Reservoir	1992	TransAlta	3
Belly River Chute	1991	TransAlta	3
St. Mary Reservoir	1992	TransAlta	2
Taylor Coulee Chute (Jensen Reservoir)	2000	TransAlta	13
Raymond Reservoir	1994	Irrican Power	21
Chin Chute (Chin Reservoir)	1994	Irrican Power	15
SMRID - Main Canal Drops #4, #5 and #6	2004	Irrican Power	7
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>96</b>

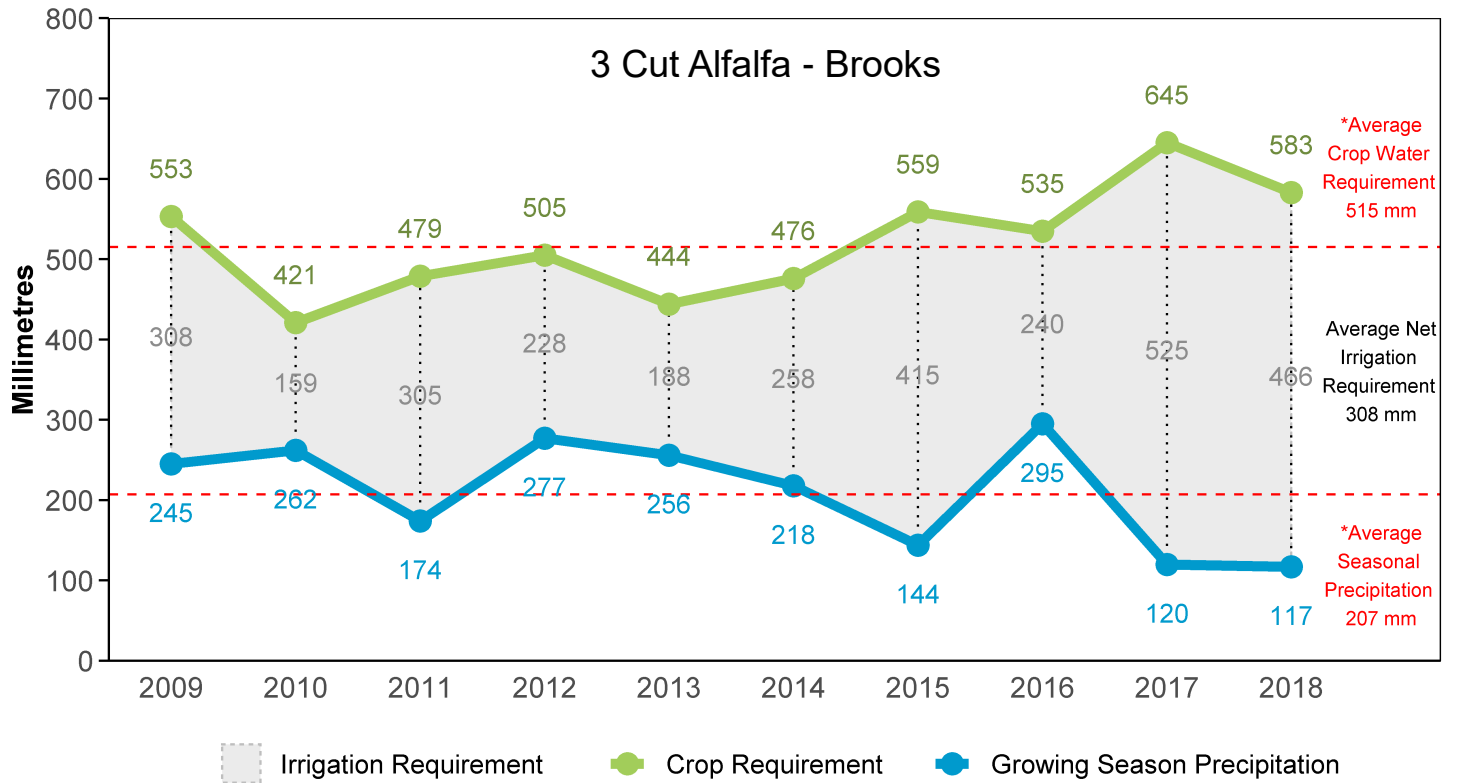


**Figure 10. Lethbridge Optimum Crop Water and Net Irrigation Requirements**

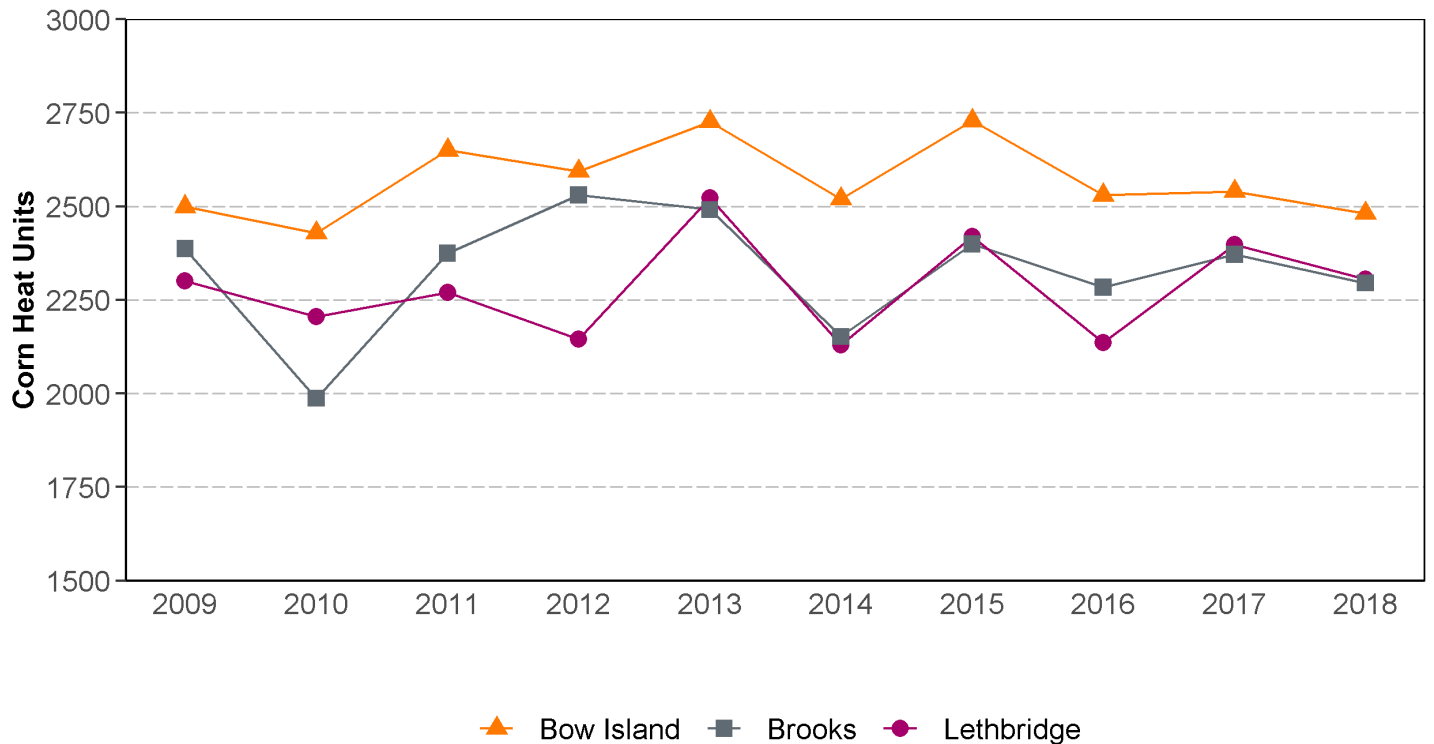
Note: Three cut alfalfa is used as an indicator crop because of its high water demand. The difference between the total crop water requirement and total precipitation is the Net Irrigation Requirement. \*The average crop requirement and average precipitation are from the period of 1997 to 2018. Seasonal precipitation from May 1 to September 30.



**Figure 11. Bow Island Optimum Crop Water and Net Irrigation Requirements**



**Figure 12. Brooks Optimum Crop Water and Net Irrigation Requirements**



**Figure 13. Lethbridge, Bow Island and Brooks Corn Heat Units**

Note: Total Corn Heat Units (CHU) starting May 15 until first frost (-2°C)

**Table 16. Historical Rainfall in selected sites in Southern Alberta (April 15—October 15)**

SITE	MAXIMUM RAINFALL (MM)	MINIMUM RAINFALL (MM)	NORMAL RAINFALL* (MM)	2018 RAINFALL (MM)	2018 % OF NORMAL
Lethbridge	534 (1978)	71 (2001)	274	<b>161</b>	<b>59%</b>
Bow Island	439 (1993)	112 (2001)	252	<b>112</b>	<b>44%</b>
Brooks	484 (2005)	87 (2001)	238	<b>133</b>	<b>56%</b>

Note: \*Normal rainfall: 1970-2018 average

**Table 17. Historical Corn Heat Units in Southern Alberta (May 15 to First -2°C Frost)**

SITE	MAXIMUM CHU (2009 - 2018)	MINIMUM CHU (2009 - 2018)	LAST TEN YEAR AVERAGE*	2018 CORN HEAT UNITS	2018 % of LAST TEN YEAR AVERAGE
Lethbridge	2522 (2013)	2129 (2014)	2283	<b>2306</b>	<b>101%</b>
Bow Island	2729 (2015)	2429 (2010)	2283	<b>2481</b>	<b>97%</b>
Brooks	2530 (2012)	1987 (2010)	2327	<b>2295</b>	<b>99%</b>

Note: \*Last ten year average 2009-2018

**Table 18. Frost Free Period (> 0°C) in Southern Alberta**

SITE	AVERAGE LAST FROST	AVERAGE FIRST FROST	AVERAGE FROST FREE DAYS	2018 LAST FROST	2018 FIRST FROST	2018 FROST FREE DAYS	2018 % OF AVERAGE
Lethbridge	May 11	Sep 20	132	<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sep 5</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>88%</b>
Bow Island	May 11	Sep 22	134	<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sep 27</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>103%</b>
Brooks	May 14	Sep 18	127	<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sep 18</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>101%</b>

Note: \*Average frost free days 1998 - 2018

**Table 19. Frost Free Period (> -2°C) in Southern Alberta**

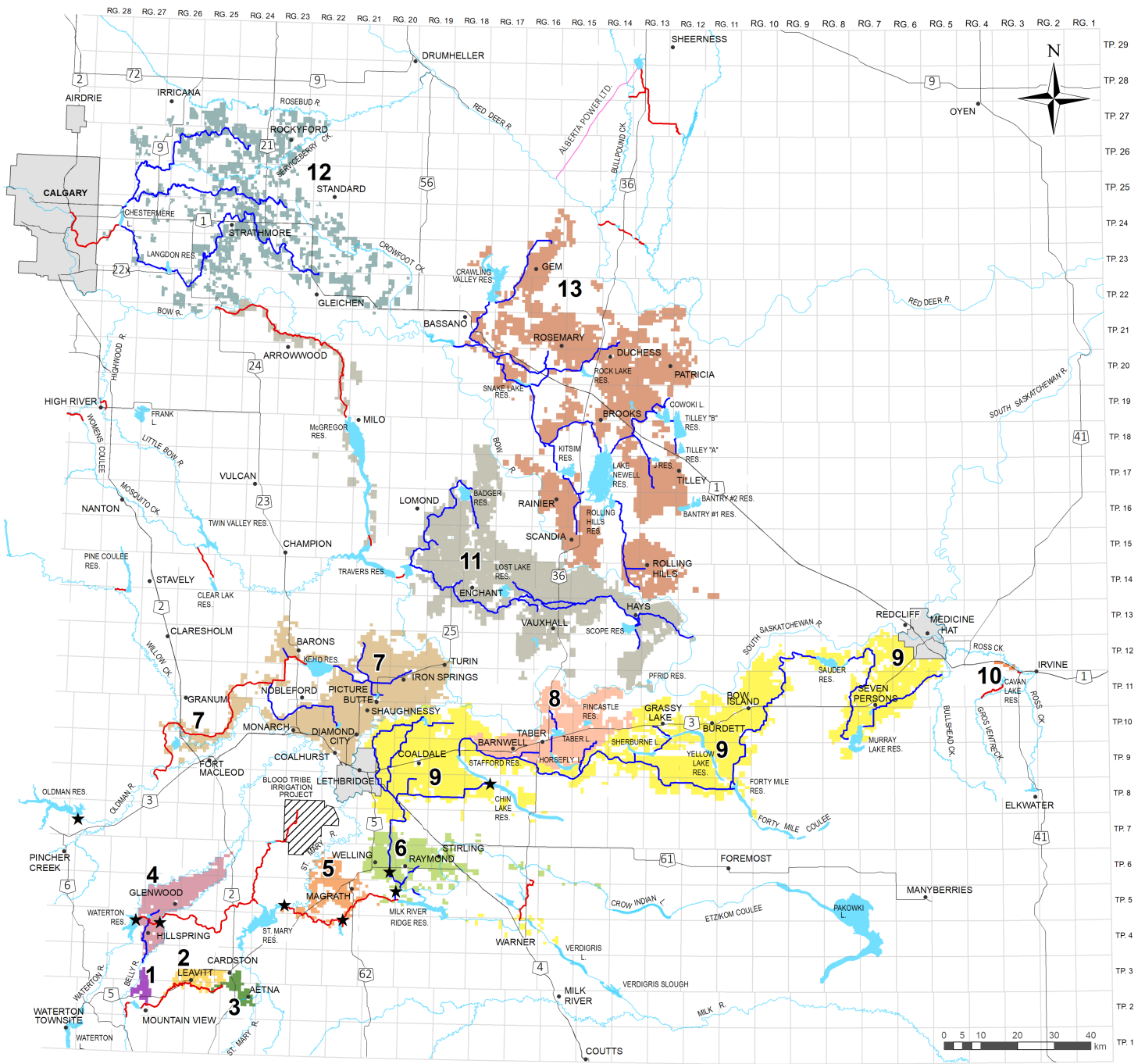
SITE	AVERAGE LAST FROST	AVERAGE FIRST FROST	AVERAGE FROST FREE DAYS	2018 LAST FROST	2018 FIRST FROST	2018 FROST FREE DAYS	2018 % OF AVERAGE
Lethbridge	May 2	Sept 27	147	<b>Apr 23</b>	<b>Sep 30</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>109%</b>
Bow Island	May 1	Oct 1	153	<b>Apr 23</b>	<b>Sep 30</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>103%</b>
Brooks	May 9	Sept 23	137	<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sep 28</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>101%</b>

Note: \*Average frost free days 1998 - 2018

**Table 20. Energy Types Used in the Irrigation Districts' Irrigated Areas**

ENERGY TYPE	IRRIGATION DISTRICT										TOTAL ACRES
	BRID	EID	LNID	MID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>	190,873	166,425	76,086	1,499	0.0	24,390	255,083	51,943	16,943	32,669	<b>815,911</b>
	77.6%	54.8%	40.6%	8.2%	0.0%	54.0%	66.1%	63.8%	49.2%	37.1%	<b>58.60%</b>
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>	26,427	65,958	54,502	10,761	0.0	15,324	110,522	25,846	771	24,554	<b>334,665</b>
	10.7%	21.7%	29.1%	58.7%	0.0%	33.9%	28.6%	31.8%	2.2%	27.9%	<b>24.10%</b>
<b>DIESEL</b>	6,921	9,965	896	0.0	0.0	204	2,598	726	298	8,658	<b>30,266</b>
	2.8%	3.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	9.8%	<b>2.20%</b>
<b>GRAVITY</b>	9,316	46,150	2,370	3,119	0.0	3,307	5,810	2,239	5,968	8,841	<b>87,120</b>
	3.8%	15.2%	1.3%	17.0%	0.0%	7.3%	1.5%	2.8%	17.3%	10.0%	<b>6.30%</b>
<b>GRAVITY PRESSURE PIPELINE</b>	9,056	5,906	33,332	2,921	1,075	391	10,804	407	10,466	7,229	<b>81,587</b>
	3.7%	1.9%	17.8%	15.9%	100.0%	0.9%	2.8%	0.5%	30.4%	8.2%	<b>5.90%</b>
<b>PUMP PRESSURE PIPELINE</b>	848	6,643	16,382	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	225	<b>24,098</b>
	0.3%	2.2%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	<b>1.70%</b>
<b>OTHER *</b>	1,138	2,651	863	30	0.0	667	909	190	15	5,988	<b>12,451</b>
	0.5%	0.9%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	1.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	6.8%	<b>0.90%</b>
<b>UNKNOWN</b>	1,336	0.0	2,839	0.0	0.0	859	54	31	0.0	0.0	<b>5,119</b>
	0.5%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	<b>0.40%</b>
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>245,915</b>	<b>303,698</b>	<b>187,270</b>	<b>18,330</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>45,142</b>	<b>385,780</b>	<b>81,382</b>	<b>34,461</b>	<b>88,164</b>	<b>1,391,217</b>

Note: - \* other includes gasoline, propane or butane  
- AID, LID and MVID did not report any data



- 1 Mountain View Irrigation District
- 2 Leavitt Irrigation District
- 3 Aetna Irrigation District
- 4 United Irrigation District
- 5 Magrath Irrigation District
- 6 Raymond Irrigation District
- 7 Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District
- 8 Taber Irrigation District
- 9 St. Mary River Irrigation District
- 10 Ross Creek Irrigation District
- 11 Bow River Irrigation District
- 12 Western Irrigation District
- 13 Eastern Irrigation District

- Hydroelectric Plants Associated with Water Distribution Works
- Headworks Owned and Operated by Alberta Environment and Parks
- Major Canals (District Owned and Operated)

There are 13 irrigation districts in Alberta providing water to 1,449,721 assessed acres of land. The infrastructure that provides water to the irrigation districts is comprised of approximately 7,968 kilometers of conveyance system, of which 339 kilometers are owned and operated by Alberta Environment and Parks\*.

\* based on 2018 data.

**Figure 14. Alberta's Irrigation Districts**



## GLOSSARY

**Acres Actually irrigated:** A parcel of assessed land that includes an irrigation system and received water during the current year, as reported by the irrigation districts.

**Acres covered by an irrigation system:** A parcel of land recorded on the assessment roll of an irrigation district as having irrigation acres and has some type of irrigation system.

**Irrigated this year:** A parcel of land that received irrigation water in the current year.

**Not irrigated this year:** A parcel of land that did not receive irrigation water in the current year.

**Acres with no irrigation system:** A parcel of land recorded on the assessment roll of an irrigation district as having irrigation acres without any type of system.

**Assessment roll:** List of all parcels in a district that have irrigation acres, and acres subject to terminable or annual agreements. To learn more about assessment rolls, please refer to Alberta's Irrigation Districts Act.

**Canal Evaporation:** Water lost through the delivery system by vaporizing from the water surface of an open channel.

**Canal Seepage:** Water lost through the delivery system through the sides and bottom of an open channel.

**Constructed Drain:** A man-made open channel or pipeline that provides a means to move unused water away from irrigation works.

**Corn Heat Unit:** A numerical measure of the growth response of a corn plant to daily minimum and maximum temperatures. Zero corn heat units are calculated when daily minimum temperatures are below 4.4°C and daily maximum temperatures are below 10°C. They are calculated on a daily basis and accumulated annually starting on May 15 and continuing until the first killing frost of -2°C.

**Crop Water Requirement:** The amount of water a crop needs to transpire in response to meteorological conditions.

**Crop Type:** Plants that are grown in the irrigation districts are grouped into five categories: cereals, forages, oil seeds, specialty crops, and other.

**Cereals:** Annual grasses grown for their grain. Crops reported include barley, Canada Prairie Spring (CPS) wheat, durum wheat, grain corn, hard red spring wheat, malt barley, oats, rye, soft wheat, triticale, and winter wheat.

**Forages:** Plants that are consumed by livestock. Crops reported include alfalfa (two & three cut, hay, and silage), barley silage, brome hay, corn silage, grass hay, green feed, milk vetch, native pasture, oats silage, sorghum/sudan grass, tame pasture, timothy hay, and triticale silage.

**Oil Seeds:** Plants that are grown for the oil contained in the seeds. Crops reported include canola, flax, mustard and safflower.

**Specialty Crops:** Include fruits and vegetables, horticulture, seed production, pulse crops, and nursery crops. Crops reported include alfalfa seed, canola seed, carrots, cat nip, chick peas, dill, dry beans, dry peas, faba beans, fresh sweet corn, fresh peas, grass seed, hemp, lawn turf, lentils, market gardens, mint, nursery, onions, potatoes, pumpkins, seed potatoes, small fruit, soy beans, sugar beets, sunflower and yellow peas.

**Other:** Other reported include miscellaneous, non-crop, summer fallow, and unknown.

**Delivered for Irrigation:** Any water delivered by an irrigation district for irrigation purposes.

**Delivered for Other Use:** Any water delivered by an irrigation district for a use other than irrigation; this includes municipal, domestic, other agricultural, industrial, and environmental uses.

**Expansion Limit:** The maximum number of irrigation acres plus acres subject to a terminable agreement in an irrigation district; the total irrigated area of an irrigation district cannot exceed this limit as per the Irrigation Districts Act.

**Frost Free Period (0°C):** Continuous number of days where the minimum daily temperature does not drop below 0°C.

**Frost Free Period (-2°C):** Continuous number of days where the minimum daily temperature does not drop below -2°C.

**Gross Annual Diversion:** All water diverted into the works of an irrigation district from a water source. It includes water used directly for irrigation purposes, reservoir filling, and the water supplied or licenced to municipal, domestic, other agricultural, industrial, and environmental uses, as well as losses through seepage and evaporation.

**Irrigation District:** A corporation that operates under the authority of the Alberta Irrigation Districts Act whose primary purpose is to convey and deliver water through irrigation works, divert and use quantities of water within the terms of its licence, and to construct, operate and maintain irrigation works. An irrigation district is the geographical area consisting of the parcels of land included in the district.

**Irrigation District Irrigation Rate:** The annual amount charged by an irrigation district per irrigation acre of land for irrigation water delivery. Some districts levy additional surcharges for services including pipeline and/or pressurized delivery, using more water than allocated, and automated screen cleaning.

**Irrigation District Works:** Any structure, device, or artificial body of water or watercourse used or to be used by a district.

**Rehabilitated:** includes work re-constructed through the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program (IRP), Alberta Environment and Parks and district funded infrastructure projects.

**Closed pipeline:** A buried conduit that is closed at the outlet.

**Open pipeline:** A buried conduit that is open at the outlet.

**Membrane-lined canal:** An open channel that has been lined with a membrane material to prevent water seepage.

**Concrete-lined canal:** An open channel that has been constructed with concrete to prevent water seepage.

**Earth canal:** An open channel that has been constructed with a natural low porosity material that reduces water seepage.

**Un-rehabilitated:** includes irrigation district works, in particular, canals that have not been re-constructed.

**Irrigation method:** On-farm technique and system used to apply irrigation water to an irrigated field. Irrigation systems are grouped into five categories: high pressure pivot sprinkler, low pressure pivot sprinkler, wheel move sprinkler, gravity, and other.

### **High pressure pivot sprinkler includes:**

**Pivot high pressure:** Centre pivot irrigation system with high pressure (greater than 50 pounds per square inch (psi) impact sprinklers.

**Pivot high pressure – corner arm:** Centre pivot irrigation system with high pressure (greater than 50 psi) impact sprinklers with the addition of a secondary pivotal arm connected to the end of the centre pivot boom.

**Linear – high pressure:** Linear move irrigation pivot system with high pressure (greater than 50 psi) impact sprinklers that irrigate a rectangular field.

### **Low pressure pivot sprinkler includes:**

**Pivot medium pressure:** Centre pivot irrigation system with medium pressure (between 30 and 50 psi) impact sprinklers.

**Pivot medium pressure – corner arm:** Centre pivot irrigation system with medium pressure (between 30 and 50 psi) impact sprinkler nozzles with the addition of a secondary pivotal arm connected to the end of the centre pivot boom.

**Pivot low pressure:** Centre pivot irrigation system with low pressure (less than 30 psi) spray nozzles.

### **Wheel move includes:**

**Wheel move – two laterals:** Two wheel mounted pipelines with sprinklers along their length per parcel of land.

**Wheel move – four laterals:** Four wheel mounted pipelines with sprinklers along their length per parcel of land.

### **Gravity includes:**

**Gravity – developed:** surface irrigation system with some land modification (leveling plus construction of border strips, furrows, basin), where the soil surface is used to distribute and infiltrate the applied water.

**Gravity undeveloped:** surface irrigation system without any land modification (leveling) or application control (furrows, border strips, dykes).

### **Other includes:**

**Volume gun – stationary:** Large volume sprinkler stationed at a single point.

**Volume gun – traveller:** Large volume sprinkler mounted on wheels.

**Solid set:** Sprinklers mounted on risers connected to a buried pipe.

**Hand move:** Sprinklers mounted on risers connected to a surface pipe that can be moved.

**Micro – spray – sprinkler:** Spray emitter connected to a drip irrigation system.

**Micro – drip – trickle:** Drip emitter connected to a drip irrigation system.

**Other application use:** Water used for purposes other than irrigation.

**Live storage:** Portion of the volume of water stored in a reservoir that is available for use for flood control, power production, irrigation or other downstream releases. In contrast, dead storage refers to the portion of water in a reservoir that cannot be drained or released from the reservoir under normal operations.

**Natural Drain:** An open channel that exists as a natural watercourse that provides a means to move unused water away from irrigation works.

**Net District Storage Change:** Net volume of water removed from internal irrigation district reservoirs for use. Irrigation districts own and operate reservoirs to store irrigation water for release when there is insufficient diversion capacity to meet the demand for water. They are also used for normal district operations to stabilize flows and capture unused water for further use.

**Net Irrigation Requirement:** The amount of water supplied by irrigation to meet the crop water requirement.

**Percent of Licence:** The percentage of the irrigation district's water licence volume that was diverted in a year.

**Replacement Cost:** The cost in today's dollars to replace a piece of irrigation district infrastructure.

**Reservoir Evaporation:** Water lost from the surface of a reservoir by vaporization.

**Reservoir Seepage:** Water lost from a reservoir through seepage.

**Return:** Water returned by an irrigation district to the river system.

**Water Licence (Irrigation):** Includes irrigation district and private licences.

**Irrigation District Water Licence:** An authorization which permits the irrigation district to divert a certain volume of water, at a specific rate, from a watercourse into district owned conveyance and storage systems.

**Private Irrigation Water Licence:** An authorization which permits a private irrigator to divert a certain volume of water, at a specific rate, from a watercourse to a private irrigation development project.

**Water Licence Allocation (Irrigation District):** The total volume of water that an irrigation district is licenced to annually divert.