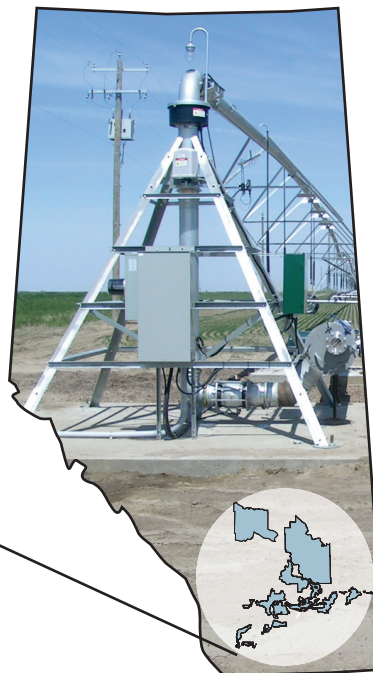
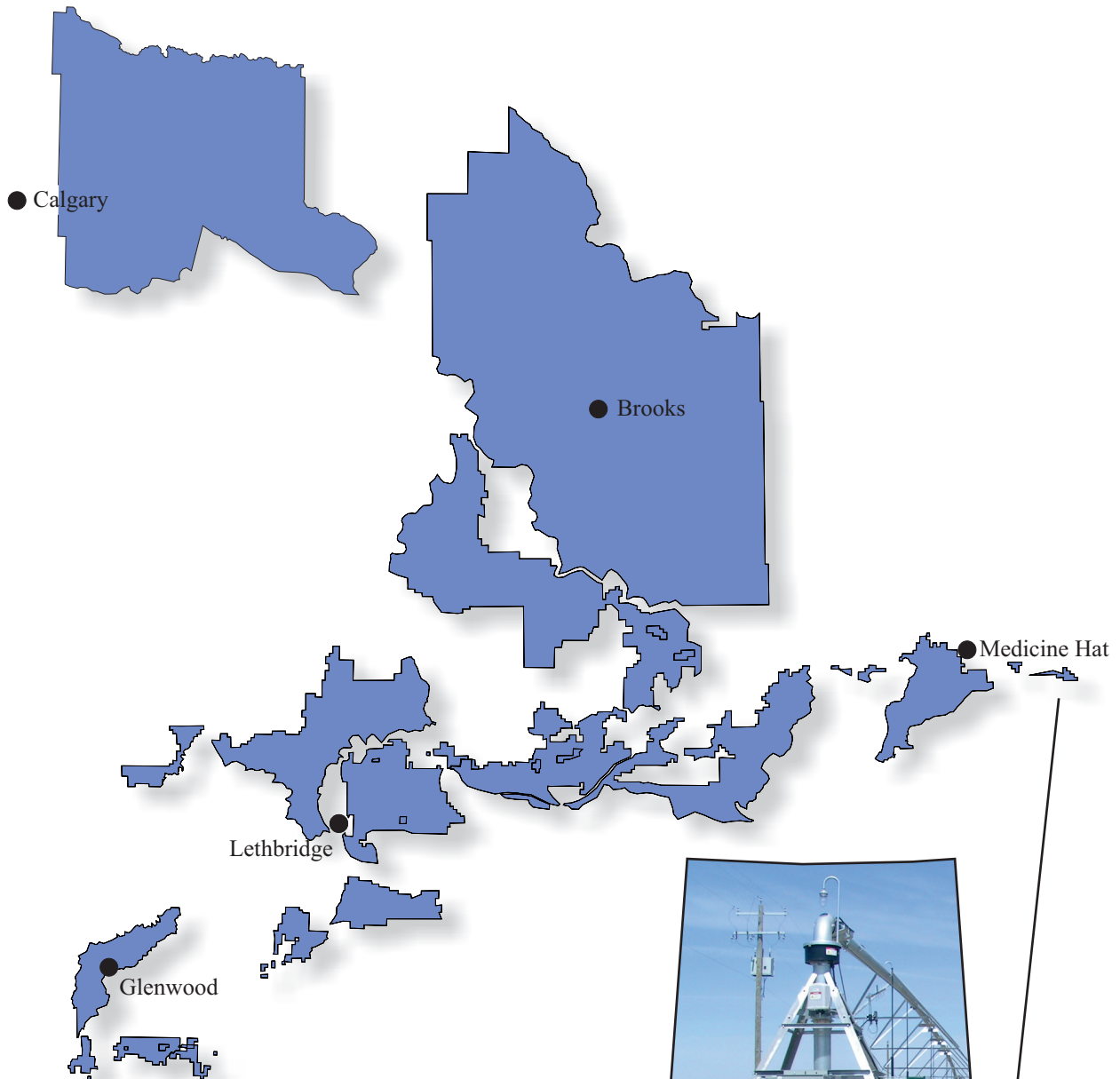


Alberta Irrigation Information 2012



ALBERTA IRRIGATION INFORMATION

FACTS AND FIGURES FOR THE YEAR 2012

BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT BRANCH
IRRIGATION AND FARM WATER DIVISION

JUNE 2013

This report is prepared by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. 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 southern Alberta, but also includes information about irrigation across the whole province.

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Website: www.agric.gov.ab.ca

Select: Information ⇒ Soil/Water/Air ⇒ Irrigation

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Table 2. Summary of Crops Grown within the 13 Irrigation Districts in 2012

CROPS	IRRIGATION DISTRICTS													TOTAL ASSESSMENT ROLL ACRES
	AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	
Cereals	1,520	84,779	76,165	297	39,881	5,822	474	157	16,476	138,771	26,600	10,579	21,591	423,112
	34.7%	36.2%	25.9%	6.1%	22.5%	31.8%	13.1%	14.3%	35.5%	37.1%	32.1%	30.8%	22.5%	30.8%
Forages	2,403	39,161	122,884	4,413	105,564	7,773	3,136	637	19,919	76,427	18,512	14,123	29,995	444,947
	54.9%	16.7%	41.7%	91.2%	59.4%	42.5%	86.7%	57.9%	42.9%	20.4%	22.4%	41.1%	31.3%	32.4%
Oil Seeds	135	25,198	52,175	130	22,781	4,408	0	116	9,514	62,376	3,990	8,665	18,679	208,168
	3.1%	10.8%	17.7%	2.7%	12.8%	24.1%	0.0%	10.5%	20.5%	16.7%	4.8%	25.2%	19.5%	15.2%
Specialty Crops	118	67,557	42,596	0	5,239	297	0	0	493	95,072	30,184	512	6,393	248,461
	2.7%	28.8%	14.5%	0.0%	3.0%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	25.4%	36.5%	1.5%	6.7%	18.1%
Other**	200	17,632	800	0	4,128	0	6	191	0	1,189	3,464	503	19,130	47,242
	4.6%	7.5%	0.3%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	0.2%	17.3%	0.0%	0.3%	4.2%	1.5%	20.0%	3.4%
TOTAL ASSESSMENT ROLL ACRES	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	1,371,930

Note: Assessment roll acres include "irrigation", "terminable", "annual" and "annual" acres
 **Other includes unknown or not reported crops

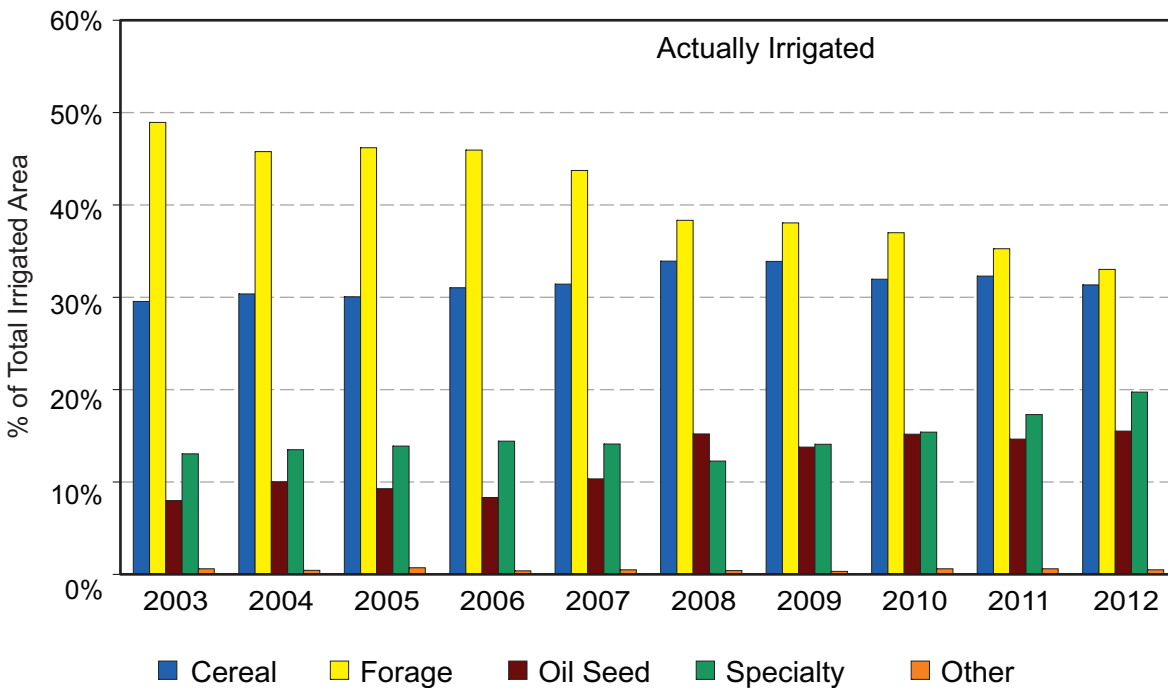


Figure 1. Irrigated Crops within the 13 Irrigation Districts in Southern Alberta (2003 - 2012)

Note: Starting in 2011, acreage data for canola seed (canola grown for seed production) was collected. It is included in the specialty crop category.

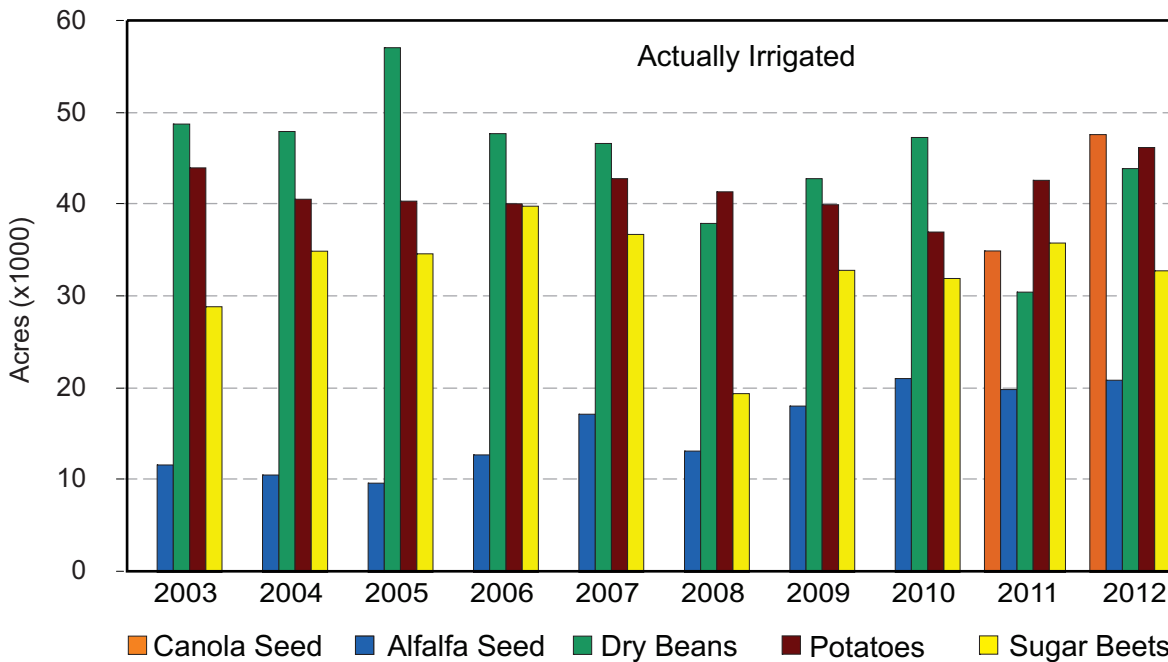


Figure 2. Acres of Five Major Irrigated Specialty Crops – Canola Seed, Alfalfa Seed, Dry Beans, Potatoes and Sugar Beets within the 13 Irrigation Districts in Southern Alberta (2003 - 2012)

Note: Starting in 2011, acreage data for canola seed (canola grown for seed production) was collected. It is included in the specialty crop category.

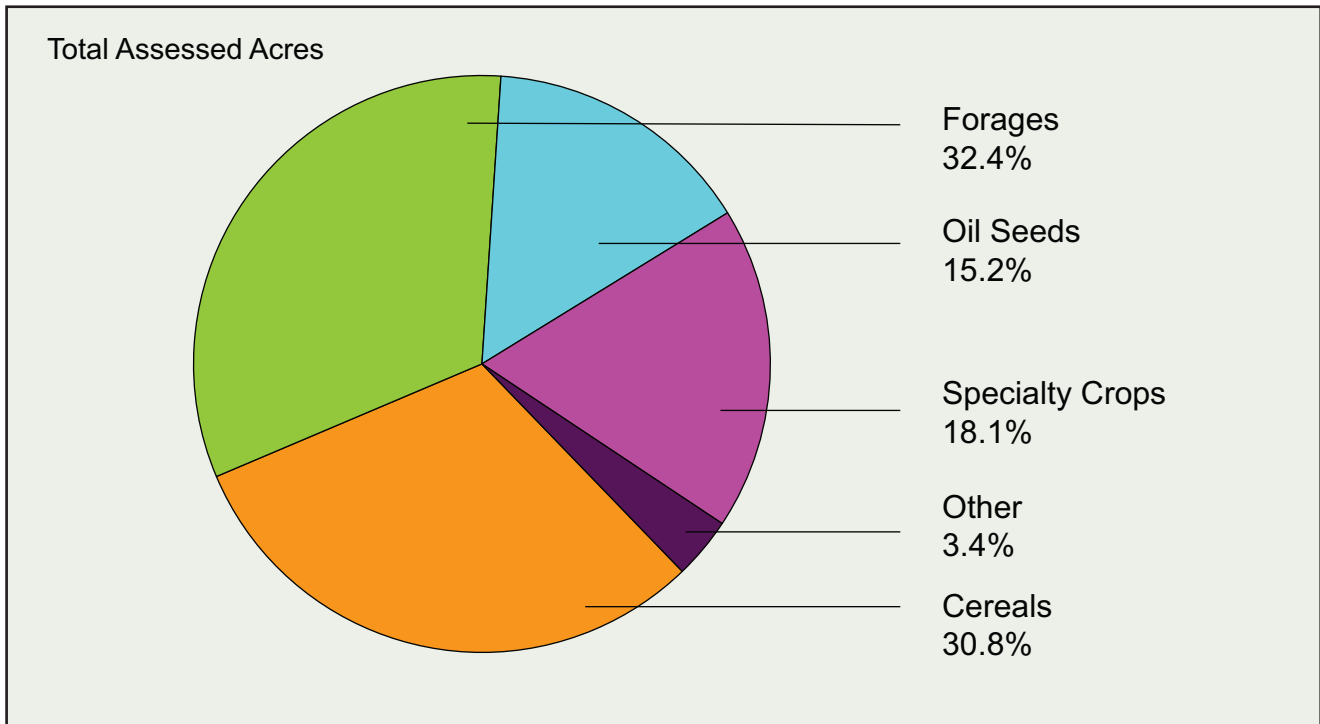


Figure 3. Crops Grown within the 13 Irrigation Districts in Southern Alberta in 2012

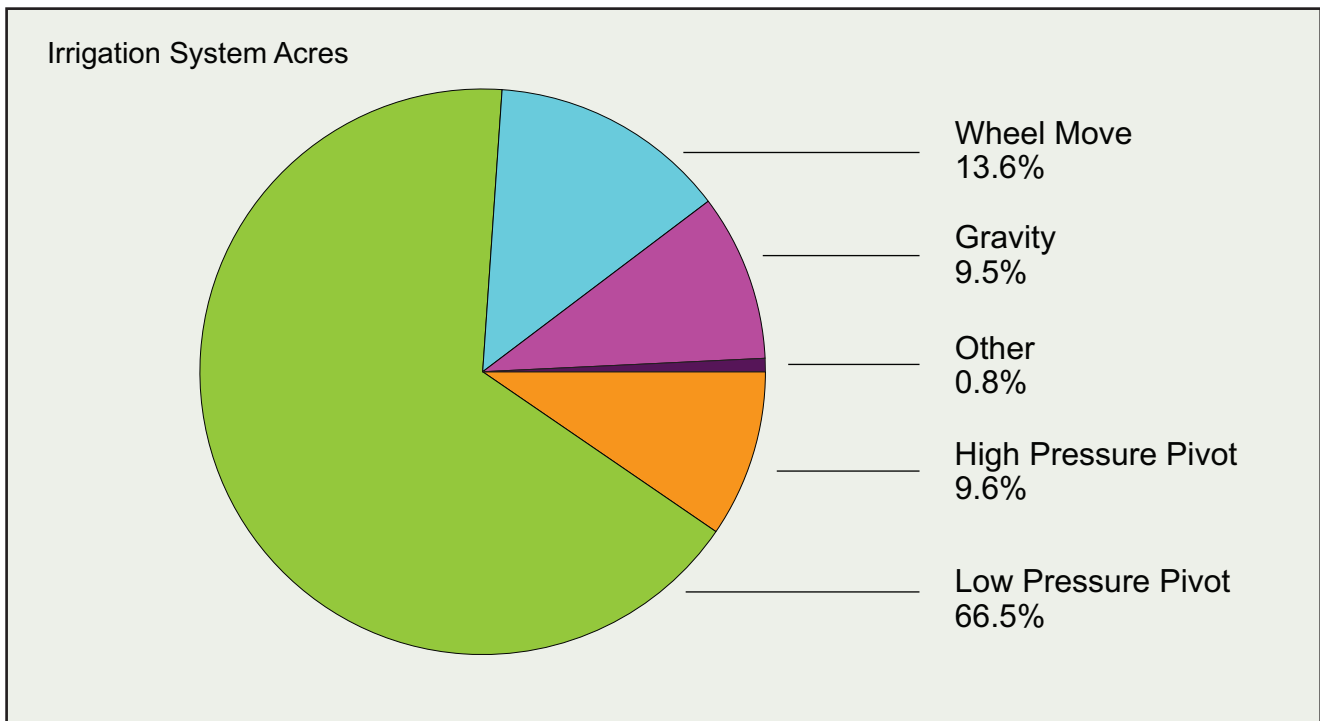


Figure 4. On-farm Irrigation Methods within the 13 Irrigation Districts in Southern Alberta in 2012

Table 3. On-farm Irrigation Method Summary within the 13 Irrigation Districts in Southern Alberta in 2012

IRRIGATION METHOD		AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	Individual Method Total	Total Acres Covered
HIGH PRESSURE PIVOT SPRINKLER	Pivot High Pressure		20,854	28,194	839	8,287	2,186		237	5,832	9,725	10,820	3,805	21,743	112,522	126,430
	Pivot High Pressure - Corner arm		1,543	2,675		4,351				593	1,491	768		764	12,185	
	Linear - High Pressure			217		839				100		105		462	1,723	
	percent of district -----	0.0%	10.3%	10.6%	17.8%	7.7%	11.9%	0.0%	22.0%	14.1%	3.1%	14.6%	11.2%	28.1%	9.6%	
LOW PRESSURE PIVOT SPRINKLER	Pivot Medium Pressure		2,162	3,985		641				362	3,504				10,654	879,651
	Pivot Medium Pressure - Corner Arm		448	248		301					288				1,285	
	Pivot Low Pressure	1,227	134,925	151,858	241	48,313	7,680		477	17,701	254,480	39,018	12,811	31,420	700,151	
	Pivot Low Pressure - Corner Arm		27,739	12,758		60,935				946	43,067	13,942	1,179	3,562	164,128	
	Linear - Low Pressure			1,390		262				125	1,159	249	80	168	3,433	
	percent of district -----	28.0%	76.1%	57.8%	5.1%	63.4%	42.0%	0.0%	44.4%	41.2%	83.6%	66.6%	41.4%	42.9%	66.5%	
WHEEL MOVE	Wheel Move -Two Laterals	2,007	7,770	19,961	1,314	21,357	4,991	507	254	13,758	34,485	11,673	1,962	10,468	130,507	179,837
	Wheel Move - Four Laterals		4,904	7,766	358	25,044	140			2,546	4,401	859	224	3,088	49,330	
	percent of district -----	45.9%	5.8%	9.4%	35.5%	26.7%	28.0%	13.9%	23.6%	35.1%	10.7%	15.7%	6.4%	16.6%	13.6%	
GRAVITY	Gravity - Developed - No Control	11	13,352	52,399		1,224	3,109			2,692	1,534	1,189	1,150	200	76,860	126,216
	Gravity - Undeveloped - Flood	210	3,391	12,331	1,535	884		3,143	107	1,085	6,241	1,055	12,590	6,785	49,356	
	percent of district -----	5.0%	7.7%	22.0%	32.6%	1.2%	17.0%	86.1%	10.0%	8.1%	2.1%	2.8%	40.5%	8.5%	9.5%	
OTHER	Volume Gun - Stationary										141	10		164	315	10,020
	Volume Gun - Traveller		55	285		144					39	22		651	1,196	
	Solid Set (underground sprinkler)	47		8		532				95	254			483	1,419	
	Hand Move (sprinkler above ground)	874	75	567	426	952	174			518	1,032	111	147	470	5,346	
	Micro - Spray - Sprinkler					41				42	39	15	15	96	248	
	Micro - Drip - Trickle						20			7	112			1,358	1,497	
Other Application Use														0		
	percent of district -----	21.0%	0.1%	0.3%	9.0%	1.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	3.9%	0.8%	
Total System Acres		4,376	217,218	294,642	4,713	174,105	18,300	3,650	1,075	46,402	361,992	79,836	33,963	81,881		1,322,153

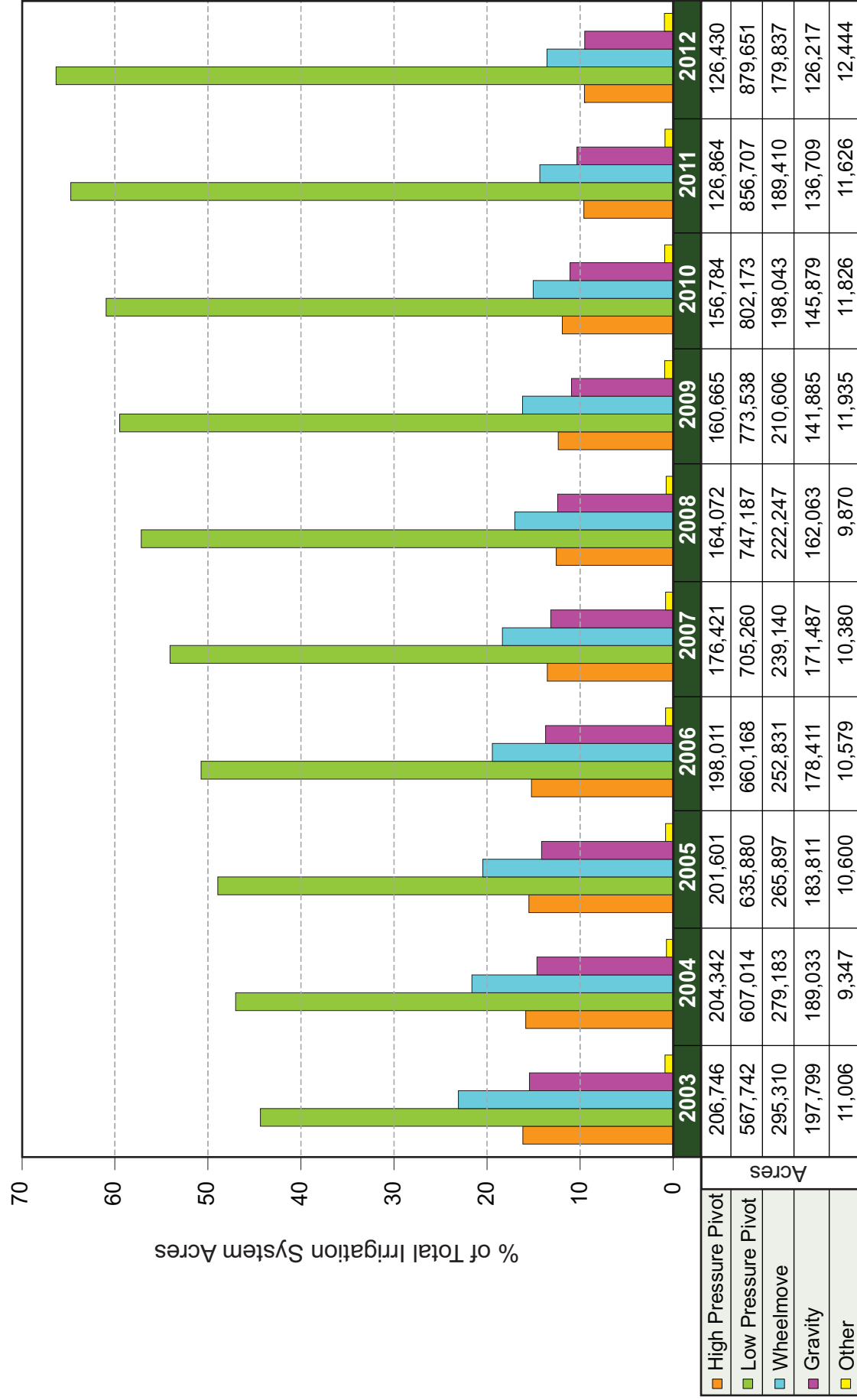


Figure 5. Irrigation Method Summary within the 13 Irrigation Districts in Southern Alberta (2003 - 2012)

Table 4. Assessment Roll Acres within the 13 Irrigation Districts

YEAR	AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	TOTAL
1975	3,081	131,764	212,982	4,430	108,106	8,871	3,720	2,068	26,920	252,019	62,692	33,358	45,311	895,322
76	3,081	139,665	219,405	4,430	109,629	9,069	3,720	2,069	28,350	262,231	66,423	33,358	52,190	933,620
77	3,081	147,795	224,967	4,430	111,735	9,480	3,720	1,319	31,626	274,301	68,178	33,617	68,549	982,798
78	3,104	153,120	227,202	4,431	111,947	10,737	3,717	1,776	31,570	284,151	68,815	33,651	71,603	1,005,824
79	3,104	150,160	227,254	4,477	111,924	10,797	3,710	1,776	31,524	287,329	69,828	33,546	74,525	1,009,954
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	1,037,173
81	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	1,061,843
82	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	1,086,158
83	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	1,107,644
84	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	1,122,585
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	1,141,896
86	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	1,158,713
87	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	1,168,411
88	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	1,182,197
89	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	1,197,211
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	1,216,124
91	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	1,227,522
92	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	1,237,969
93	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	1,240,495
94	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	1,247,022
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	1,256,594
96	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	1,268,138
97	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	1,277,891
98	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	1,284,039
99	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	1,296,134
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	1,300,982
01	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	1,308,785
02	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	1,323,103
03	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	1,325,499
04	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	1,339,760
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	1,342,473
06	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	1,344,316
07	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	1,356,245
08	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	1,359,153
09	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	1,368,091
2010	4,389	239,925	290,429	4,793	176,282	18,300	3,700	1,101	46,302	373,018	82,728	34,370	95,628	1,364,965
11	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	1,370,449
12	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	1,371,930

Notes: Assessment roll acres include "irrigation", "terminable" and "annual" acres. Only "irrigation" and "terminable" acres are considered in district expansion limits. In 2012, irrigation districts reported 6,045 annual acres.

Table 6. Irrigation Districts Annual Water Rates (\$ per assessed acre per year)

YEAR	AID	BRID	EID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID
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
86	\$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
87	\$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
88	\$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
89	\$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
91	\$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
92	\$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
93	\$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
94	\$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
96	\$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
97	\$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
98	\$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
99	\$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
01	\$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
02	\$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
03	\$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
04	\$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
06	\$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
07	\$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
08	\$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
09	\$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
11	\$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
12	\$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*

Note: * Some districts levy additional surcharges. The 2012 rates were:

- AID – \$2.00 per acre for pipeline delivery in Township 2
 - \$3.00 per acre for pipeline delivery in Township 3
 - BRID – \$0.60 per acre inch for volumes used on flood parcels over the annual water allocation
 - EID – \$4.50 per acre if served from H Cowoki, 03 East Branch, Springhill, or Rolling Hills
 - Reservoir pressure systems
 - LID – \$3.00 per acre for pipeline delivery
 - LNID – \$0.30 per psi for pressure pipeline
 - \$5.00 per acre inch for volumes over the annual allocation
- MID – \$4.00 per acre for pipeline delivery; \$1.00 per 10 psi
 - RID – charges vary for pipeline and pressure delivery
 - \$100 per acre inch for volumes over the annual allocation
 - SMRID – \$100 per acre inch for volumes over the annual allocation
 - TID – \$50 per acre inch for volumes over the annual allocation
 - WID – \$0.31 per psi per acre; \$0.50 per acre for automated screen cleaning

Some districts have centralized pump stations delivering pressurized water to individual farm turnouts.

Table 7. Gross Annual Diversions To Alberta Irrigation Districts

DISTRICT	OLDMAN RIVER BASIN										BOW RIVER BASIN			TOTALS
	AID	LID	LNID	MID	MVID	RCID	RID	SMRID	TID	UID	BRID	EID	WID	
WATER SOURCE	diversion from Belly River	diversion from Belly River	diversion from Oldman River	diversion from St. Mary Rivers	diversion from Belly River	diversion from Gros Ventre Ck.	diversion from SMRID main canal	diversion from St. Mary Rivers	diversion from SMRID main canal	diversion from Belly, Waterton, Waterton Rivers	diversion from Bow River	diversion from Bow River	diversion from Bow River	
EXPANSION LIMITS (acres)	5,000	6,000	227,000	18,300	4,240	1,210	46,500	412,000	92,200	34,400	260,000	311,000	95,000	1,512,850
WATER LICENCE ALLOCATION (acre-feet)	9,000	12,000	334,450	34,000	8,000	3,000	81,000	722,000	158,000	66,210	450,000	762,000	158,400	2,798,060
YEAR	VOLUME OF WATER DIVERTED (acre-feet)													
1980			134,576	10,710		0	19,944	340,254	94,858	17,754	314,000	548,686	136,198	1,616,980
81			132,955	8,869		264	22,162	379,075	108,427	12,242	359,000	577,969	108,630	1,709,593
82			142,683	13,068		3,551	27,697	332,337	91,998	19,133	303,000	481,258	149,712	1,544,437
83			150,790	14,363		1,354	14,955	361,537	97,674	24,078	347,000	580,299	146,737	1,738,787
84			177,543	18,857		67	17,544	492,674	101,643	25,093	361,000	657,640	162,140	2,014,201
1985			184,029	18,533		4,250	27,302	425,500	95,751	24,193	358,722	655,188	158,897	1,969,712
86			182,159	14,114		3,212	22,045	406,536	101,597	20,106	311,000	680,592	131,333	1,885,458
87			181,934	14,649		3,180	40,559	426,434	98,621	19,958	309,000	639,928	129,712	1,875,332
88			222,936	22,918		256	60,531	563,621	121,668	30,462	433,000	730,274	171,868	2,369,908
89			198,789	12,338		122	30,728	504,255	78,396	18,372	423,000	605,148	122,416	1,914,444
1990			191,899	13,555		298	32,000	467,244	98,572	16,133	380,907	689,178	128,091	2,030,249
91			184,737	12,712		1,775	39,163	391,634	94,956	17,003	334,792	629,872	147,547	1,856,416
92			136,925	15,695		4,118	36,210	441,745	101,122	18,628	336,878	625,650	135,387	1,865,744
93			61,753	4,848		3,300	13,574	218,375	59,278	8,107	210,340	423,551	114,309	1,126,373
94			179,663	13,895		758	28,328	415,162	103,028	16,827	364,126	559,476	132,104	1,825,121
1995			110,114	4,248		861	19,953	390,285	79,818	7,710	302,305	602,098	116,254	1,637,204
96			206,206	12,506		2,660	45,527	498,483	127,436	19,832	328,182	615,478	117,065	1,983,387
97			188,378	12,564		1,760	38,043	455,300	115,582	20,364	343,380	593,782	116,740	1,898,666
98			157,758	9,671		1,726	33,834	405,000	116,300	14,895	303,565	638,500	142,367	1,836,144
99			196,906	25,178		1,700	42,960	411,532	105,208	20,900	298,524	426,788	88,410	1,635,505
2000			263,413	35,375		6,700	58,202	451,700	140,046	37,200	417,897	675,238	156,400	2,259,411
01*			308,236	21,173		6,814	40,207	325,700	94,770	27,526	413,780	685,000	160,000	2,094,751
02			112,143	10,788		N/A	23,552	466,700	53,324	21,283	333,541	430,000	149,577	1,616,714
03			201,812	20,711		N/A	49,723	330,600	86,500	32,500	279,798	459,700	128,700	1,608,495
04			166,276	12,391		2,660	28,200	367,500	64,399	21,600	230,817	417,370	114,000	1,434,102
2005			134,088	8,859		2,067	27,046	316,200	72,487	13,717	182,819	318,000	120,400	1,207,116
06			165,752	14,114		3,987	37,049	334,100	82,448	20,390	210,741	335,210	72,000	1,284,813
07			235,330	18,238		N/A	47,322	394,700	100,907	31,801	256,518	417,830	68,000	1,583,811
08			178,750	12,659		2,609	34,348	381,200	85,829	21,054	238,000	409,400	85,000	1,459,022
09			179,945	14,885		2,138	45,705	370,100	97,532	17,506	295,557	435,650	120,829	1,588,076
2010			71,950	5,351		1,013	21,900	201,700	53,135	7,264	156,116	210,500	65,850	799,219
11			132,388	15,233		2,393	32,534	286,000	84,909	19,073	151,700	310,100	85,985	1,131,775
12			176,683	20,720		2,558	35,200	340,800	88,309	19,039	260,000	343,200	103,862	1,397,105
Percent of Licence (2012)	30.7%	33.1%	52.8%	60.9%	32.0%	18.7%	43.5%	47.2%	55.9%	28.8%	57.8%	45.0%	65.6%	50.0%
**Average Volume	3,809	6,270	167,523	14,296	3,185	1,028	32,641	382,753	92,841	20,052	302,351	526,370	124,279	1,677,399

Notes: – Data are obtained from Alberta Environment for AID, LID, MVID, RCID, and UID, and from Irrigation Districts for BRID, EID, LNID, MID, RID, SMRID, TID, and WID.
 – RCID has a second diversion in 2012 since the diversion structure was under construction; 562 ac-ft was delivered for irrigation from Cavan Lake.
 – RCID had zero diversion in 2012 since the diversion structure was under construction; 562 ac-ft was delivered for irrigation from Cavan Lake.
 – Diversion data represent the gross diversion into and through the works of the districts and include volumes used directly for irrigation purposes, reservoir filling and the water supplied or licensed to municipal, domestic, other agricultural, industrial and environmental uses.
 – *Water rationing in effect for MID, RID, SMRID, and TID in 2001.
 – ** Average Volume 1976 - 2012

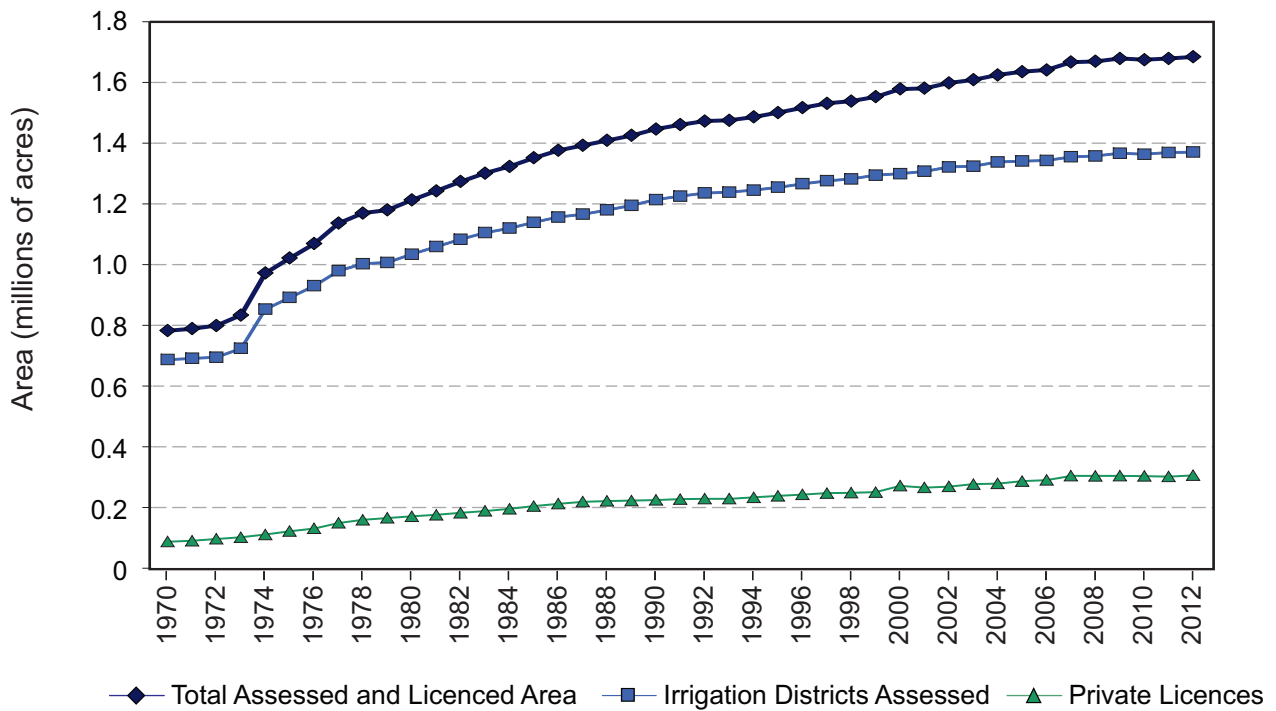


Figure 6. Growth in Irrigation in Alberta (1970 - 2012)

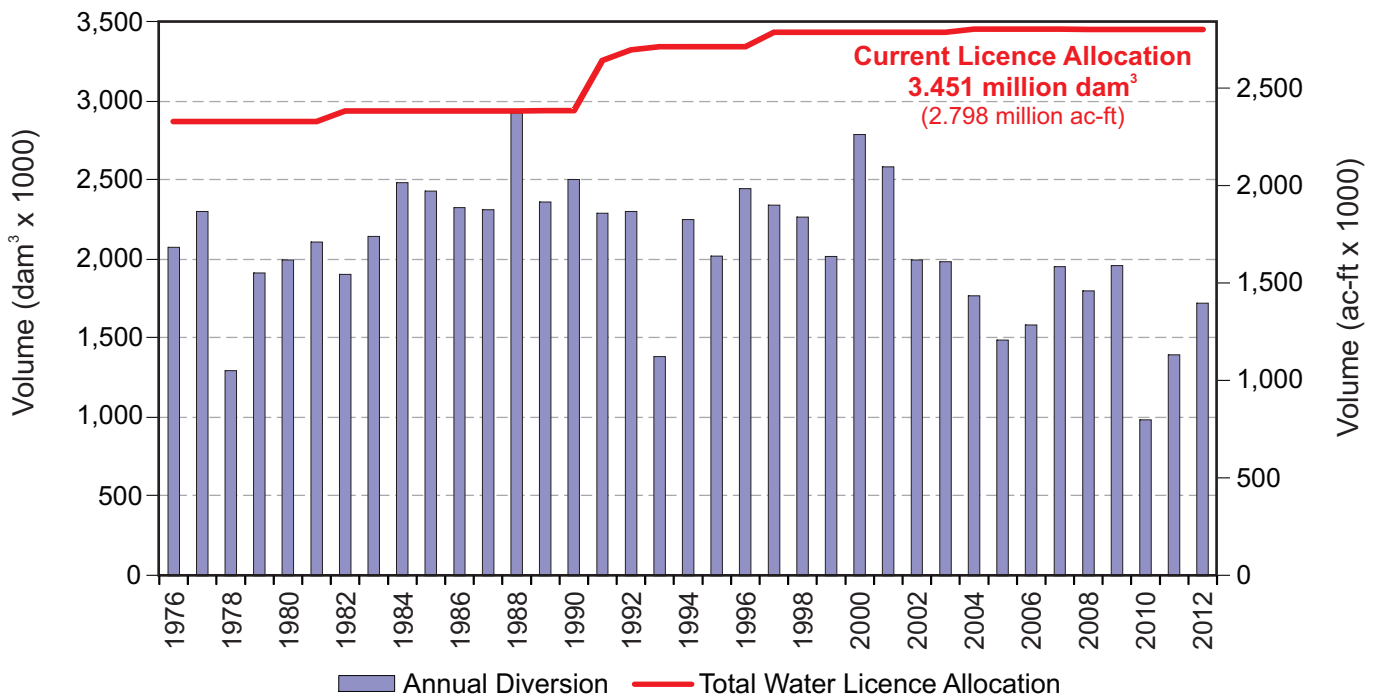


Figure 7. Irrigation Districts Gross Annual Diversions (1976 - 2012)

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 private licence holders through a conveyance agreement with the private licence holder.

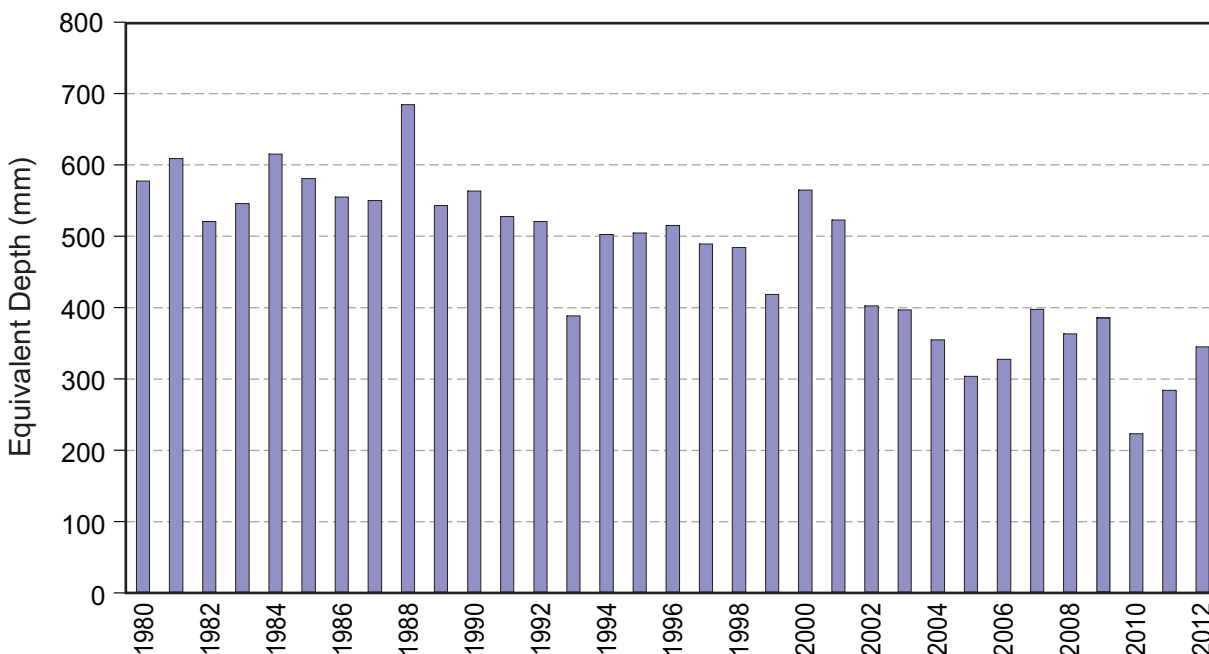


Figure 8. Irrigation Districts Gross Diversion Equivalent Depth (1980 - 2012)

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 which may have accounted as net gains in reservoir storage, water diverted for other uses such as domestic, municipal, other agricultural, industrial, recreational and habitat enhancement purposes.

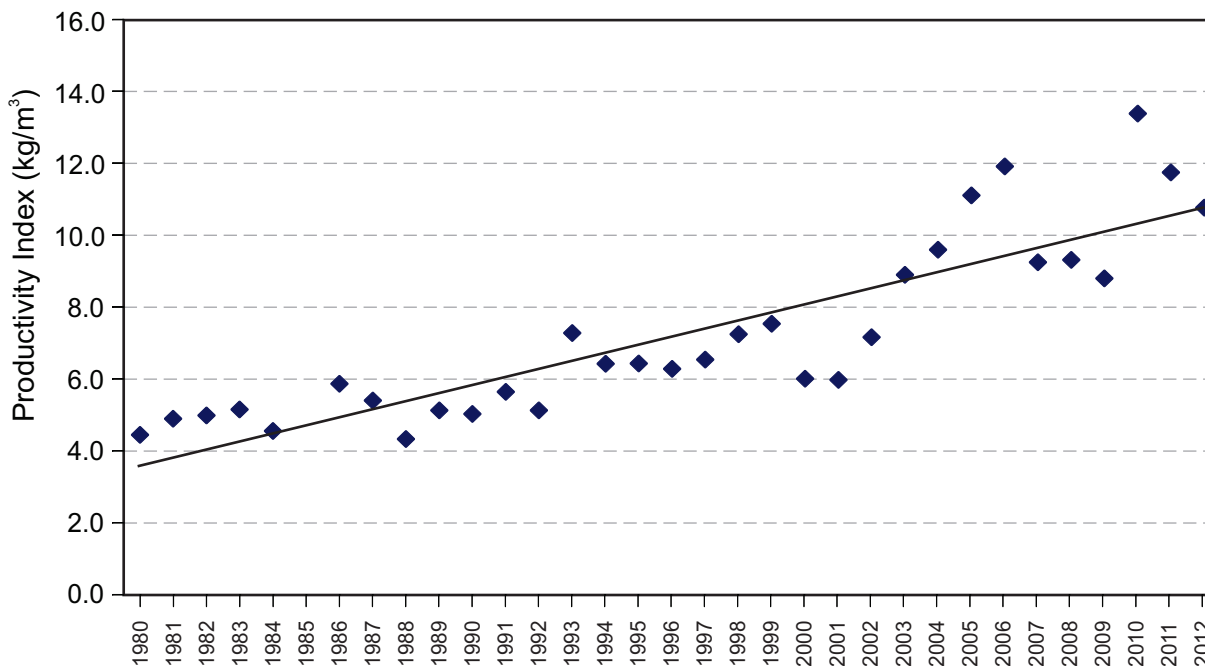
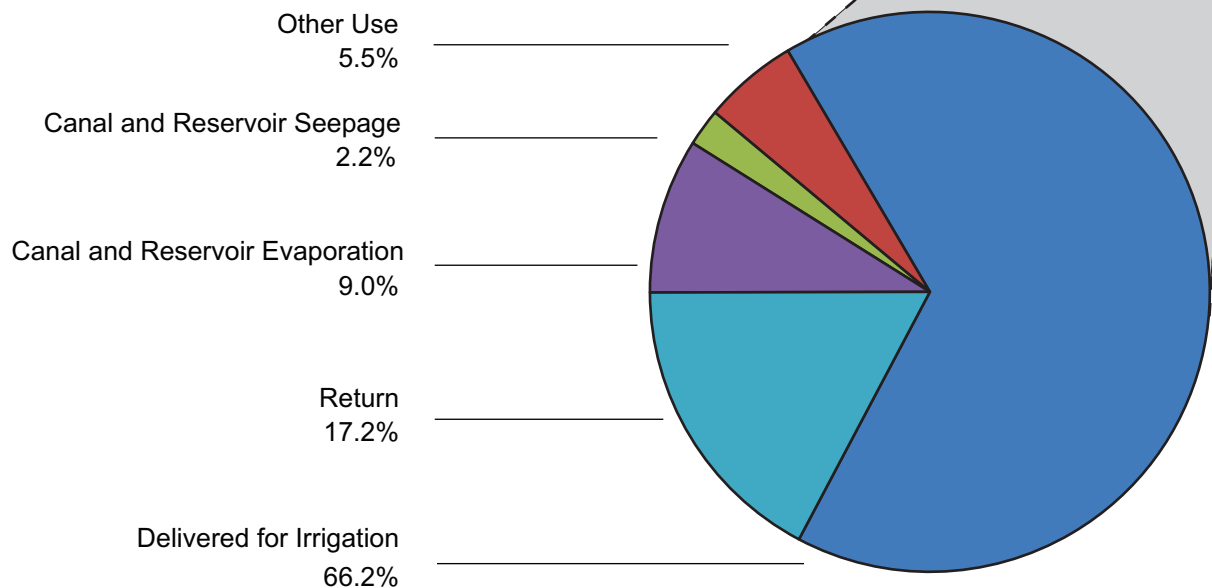


Figure 9. Irrigation Districts Water Use Productivity (1980 - 2012)

Note: Commodity yield per unit area divided by the volume of irrigation water diverted per unit area provides a measure of productive output per unit of irrigation water used. The historical yields of sugar beets (as reported by the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers), the historical yields of potatoes (as reported by the Potato Growers of Alberta) and the historical yields of soft white spring wheat (as provided by the Alberta Soft Wheat Growers) are tallied and then divided by the respective reported annual gross water diversions to the 13 irrigation districts to derive a “Productivity Index”.

Table 8. Irrigation Districts Water Balance

Water Balance Category	OLDMAN RIVER BASIN	BOW RIVER BASIN	IRRIGATION DISTRICTS
Gross Diversion	690,000	707,100	1,397,100
Storage	10,600	(2,700)	7,900
TOTAL DISTRICT USE	700,600	704,400	1,405,000
Delivered for Irrigation	502,800	427,600	930,400
Other Use	22,600	54,000	76,600
Canal & Reservoir Seepage	14,300	16,000	30,300
Canal & Reservoir Evaporation	54,500	71,300	125,800
Return	106,400	135,500	241,900
TOTAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS	700,600	704,400	1,405,000



- Note:**
1. Irrigation district reported values were used
 2. Where district reporting was incomplete, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development calculated an estimate
 3. All volumes are in acre-feet

Glossary

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

Storage - Volume of water removed from irrigation district reservoirs for use (a negative value indicates an increase in reservoir storage volume)

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

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

Other Use - Volume of water supplied for other uses including municipal and industrial

Canal & Reservoir Seepage - Water lost from reservoirs and through delivery system from seepage and surface evaporation

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 9. Conveyance Infrastructure by Type of Works within the 13 Irrigation Districts in 2012

Irrigation District	REHABILITATED						UN-REHABILITATED			Total Conveyance Works (km)			
	Membrane-Lined Canals		Pipelines - Closed		Pipelines - Open		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
AID	4.5	11.9%	22.8	60.2%	0.2	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	1.0	2.6%	9.4	24.8%	38
BRID	149.1	14.9%	468.1	46.8%	11.0	1.1%	16.6	1.7%	202.4	20.3%	152.2	15.2%	999
EID	335.6	17.6%	1055.0	55.3%	38.4	2.0%	0.0	0.0%	193.0	10.1%	285.2	15.0%	1,907
LID	2.0	3.7%	29.5	53.9%	0.3	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	11.7	21.4%	11.2	20.5%	55
LNID	56.0	7.6%	426.9	57.9%	12.7	1.7%	45.2	6.1%	65.8	8.9%	130.7	17.7%	737
MID	1.2	1.2%	59.2	58.8%	1.5	1.5%	0.3	0.3%	33.5	33.3%	4.9	4.9%	101
MVID	0.0	0.0%	15.1	38.0%	1.8	4.5%	0.0	0.0%	17.0	42.8%	5.8	14.6%	40
RCID	0.0	0.0%	12.2	100.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	12
RID	0.0	0.0%	129.0	56.5%	6.4	2.8%	0.0	0.0%	79.2	34.7%	13.9	6.1%	229
SMRID	69.8	3.9%	896.4	49.5%	16.1	0.9%	67.2	3.7%	448.4	24.8%	311.5	17.2%	1,809
TID	58.3	17.2%	174.5	51.6%	13.3	3.9%	6.9	2.0%	65.0	19.2%	20.3	6.0%	338
UID	15.6	6.6%	73.9	31.4%	29.2	12.4%	0.2	0.1%	61.0	25.9%	55.6	23.6%	236
WID	47.3	4.5%	171.9	16.2%	39.0	3.7%	5.3	0.5%	164.4	15.5%	631.9	59.6%	1,060
Total	739	9.8%	3,535	46.7%	170	2.2%	142	1.9%	1,342	17.8%	1,633	21.6%	7,561
											Headworks Owned by Alberta Environment		339
											Total Length of Conveyance System in Southern Alberta (km)		7,900

NOTE: Rehabilitated infrastructure includes new works and those works re-constructed through:

- the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program (IRP) 1969 - 2012
- Alberta Environment's headworks improvement program
- individual district operations & maintenance program

Totals only include irrigation conveyance works, ie. does not include domestic water supply

Table 10. Irrigation District Infrastructure by Length and Replacement Cost in 2012

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS	CONVEYANCE WORKS		MAJOR STRUCTURES		DRAINAGE WORKS		TOTAL of ALL WORKS	
	length (km)	replacement cost (\$'000)	number of units	replacement cost (\$'000)	length (km)	replacement cost (\$'000)	length (km) / structures	replacement cost (\$'000)
AID	38	\$10,911	0	\$0	19	\$521	57 / 0	\$11,432
BRID	999	\$378,581	22	\$97,753	711	\$15,088	1,710 / 22	\$491,422
EID	1,907	\$715,164	61	\$349,421	1,919	\$30,683	3,826 / 61	\$1,095,268
LID	55	\$13,122	0	\$0	5	\$116	60 / 0	\$13,238
LNID	737	\$255,779	2	\$2,880	254	\$7,099	991 / 2	\$265,758
MID	101	\$26,820	0	\$0	160	\$4,827	261 / 0	\$31,647
MVID	40	\$14,227	0	\$0	1	\$44	41 / 0	\$14,271
RCID	12	\$2,165	1	\$135	22	\$377	34 / 1	\$2,677
RID	229	\$58,635	0	\$0	210	\$10,392	439 / 0	\$69,027
SMRID	1,809	\$665,891	48	\$335,617	409	\$10,435	2,218 / 48	\$1,011,943
TID	338	\$133,220	12	\$14,168	68	\$3,524	406 / 12	\$150,912
UID	236	\$77,201	11	\$16,206	58	\$1,284	294 / 11	\$94,691
WID	1,060	\$350,738	13	\$18,180	880	\$21,390	1,940 / 13	\$390,308
DISTRICT TOTALS	7,561	\$2,702,454	170	\$834,360	4,716	\$105,780	12,277 / 170	\$3,642,594

NOTE: Drainage works include both open channels and pipelines.
 Total of All Works length values include the summation of conveyance and drainage works.

Table 11. Summary of Irrigation District Water Licence Allocations

Irrigation District	Other Purposes* (ac-ft)	Total Licensed Volume (ac-ft)
AID	700	9,000
BRID	2,380	450,000
EID	5,000	762,000
LID	1,000	12,000
LNID	39,068	334,450
MID	740	34,000
MVID	n/a	8,000
RCID	n/a	3,000
RID	4,500	81,000
SMRID	12,000	722,000
TID	8,000	158,000
UID	1,000	66,210
WID	3,500	158,400
Total	77,888	2,798,060

Note: 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 12. Summary of Condition Assessments (All Works by Replacement Cost)

Works Category	Good (\$'000)	Fair (\$'000)	Poor (\$'000)	TOTAL (\$'000)
Conveyance	\$1,774,200	\$810,837	\$117,417	\$2,702,454
Drainage	\$20,718	\$66,374	\$18,688	\$105,780
Major Structures	\$535,333	\$291,816	\$7,212	\$834,361
TOTAL	\$2,330,251	\$1,169,027	\$143,317	\$3,642,595
Proportion	64.0%	32.1%	3.9%	100%

Note: Condition assessments ratings are determined based on criteria in the Irrigation Works Condition Evaluation Guidelines. Construction and material costs are updated approximately every five years. The last valuation was completed in 2012.

Table 13. Irrigation District Reservoirs

Location	Reservoir	Approximate Date of Impoundment	Live Storage (dam ³)	Live Storage (acre-feet)
Bow River Irrigation District	Badger	1985	57,120	46,300
	'D' Reservoir	2005	350	320
	'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
	Total storage		78,810	63,940
Eastern Irrigation District	Bantry # 1	1968	1,090	500
	Bantry # 2	1967	4,150	4,500
	Cowoki Lake	1937	8,370	16,000
	Crawling Valley	1984	94,300	76,450
	'J' Reservoir	1949/1966*	1,460	500
	Kitsim	1980	19,470	15,790
	Lake Newell	1914	315,300	259,600
	One Tree	1935	5,660	4,590
	Rock Lake	1956	3,990	7,500
	Rolling Hills	1940/2003*	40,640	32,950
	Snake Lake	1997	18,620	15,100
	Tilley "A"	1972	33,300	27,000
Total storage		546,350	460,460	
Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District	Park Lake	1928	1,440	1,170
	Picture Butte	1936	1,490	1,210
	Vandenburg	1992	120	90
	Total storage		3,050	2,470
Raymond Irrigation District	Corner Lake	1925	500	400
	Craddock	1925	620	500
	Factory Lake	1925	370	300
	Total storage		1,480	1,200
St. Mary River Irrigation District	Bullshead	1954	130	100
	Chin	1954	207,370	154,300
	Cross Coulee	1954	2,090	1,700
	Forty Mile	1987	100,430	81,420
	Murray	1954	30,630	24,800
	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	18,900
	Yellow Lake	1952	18,130	14,690
Total storage		443,520	346,940	
Taber Irrigation District	Fincastle	1952	3,770	3,060
	Horsefly	1950	6,370	5,170
	Taber Lake	1955	6,410	5,200
	Total storage		16,560	13,430
United Irrigation District	Cochrane Lake	1923	3,100	2,540
Western Irrigation District	Chestermere	1944	5,090	4,200
	Langdon	1979	7,750	6,280
	Total storage		12,840	10,480
Grand Total			1,105,740	901,470

Note: all reservoirs are off-stream storage sites

* denotes year of reservoir enlargement

Table 14. Provincially Owned and Operated Reservoirs

Source Supply for:	Reservoir	Approximate Date of Impoundment	Live storage (dam ³)	Live storage (acre-feet)
Bow River Irrigation District	Little Bow	1920	21,080	17,090
	McGregor	1914	351,060	284,600
	Travers *	1954	104,640	84,830
	Total Storage		476,780	386,520
Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District	Keho	1920	95,640	77,530
	Oldman River *	1991	490,180	397,390
	Total Storage		585,820	474,920
Ross Creek Irrigation District	Cavan	1950	4,630	3,750
Mountain View, Leavitt, Aetna	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
	Total Storage		626,800	508,150
Other Multi-purpose	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
	Total Storage		126,740	102,750
Grand Total			1,829,450	1,483,140

Note: * denotes on-stream storage reservoir

Table 15. Hydroelectric Plants Associated with Water Distribution Works

Location	Commission Date	Owner	Capacity (megawatts)
Oldman Reservoir	2003	ATCO Electric	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	21
Chin Chute (Chin Reservoir)	1994	Irrican	13
SMRID - Main Canal Drops #4, #5 and #6	2004	Irrican	7
Total			94

Table 16. Private Water Licences for Irrigation in Alberta

There are 2,894 individual irrigation projects, outside of the 13 irrigation districts, irrigating approximately 312,230 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 agricultural feasibility of these projects is reviewed by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and the licencing is regulated by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

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	18,801	97	43	14	154
NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER	26,857	314	54	16	384
PEACE RIVER	3,364	67	9	0	76
SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER					
- Bow River	27,503	151	57	20	228
- Little Bow River	30,064	125	68	24	217
- Lower Oldman River	16,426	22	24	13	59
- Red Deer River	49,761	417	90	21	528
- South Saskatchewan River	46,953	532	79	24	635
- Upper Oldman River	8,063	64	22	4	90
- Waterton / Belly / St. Mary Rivers	52,254	134	70	20	224
- Willow Creek	30,199	156	78	16	250
South Saskatchewan River Total	261,223	1,601	488	142	2,231
2012	312,230	2,122	600	172	2,894
2011	308,435	2,135	602	167	2,904
2010	309,778	2,153	605	166	2,924
2009	310,821	2,158	607	165	2,930
2008	310,272	2,161	602	166	2,929
2007	310,733	2,157	601	166	2,924
2006	296,964	2,150	579	159	2,888
2005	293,055	2,138	572	154	2,864
2004	285,276	2,113	575	152	2,840
2003	283,254	2,108	571	149	2,828
2002	275,599	2,100	567	141	2,808
2001	272,353	2,085	558	143	2,786
2000	277,826	2,076	555	140	2,771
1999	257,258	1,863	509	137	2,509
1998	255,192	1,884	501	138	2,523
1997	253,868	1,893	486	129	2,508

Notes: – upper Oldman reach is defined as upstream of the Belly River confluence
– lower Oldman 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
– data are obtained from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
– licence authorization as of January 2012

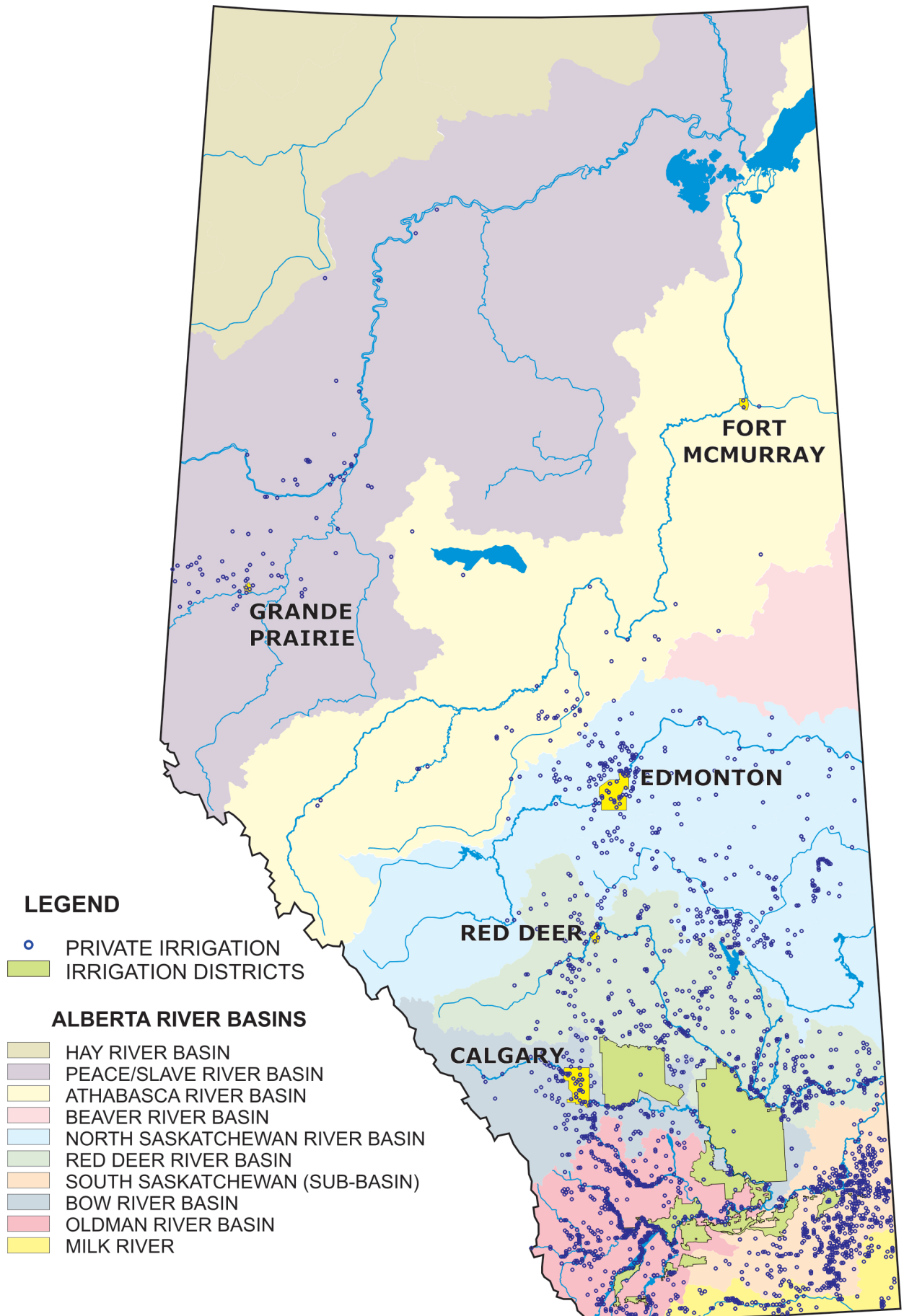


Figure 10. Private Irrigation in Alberta

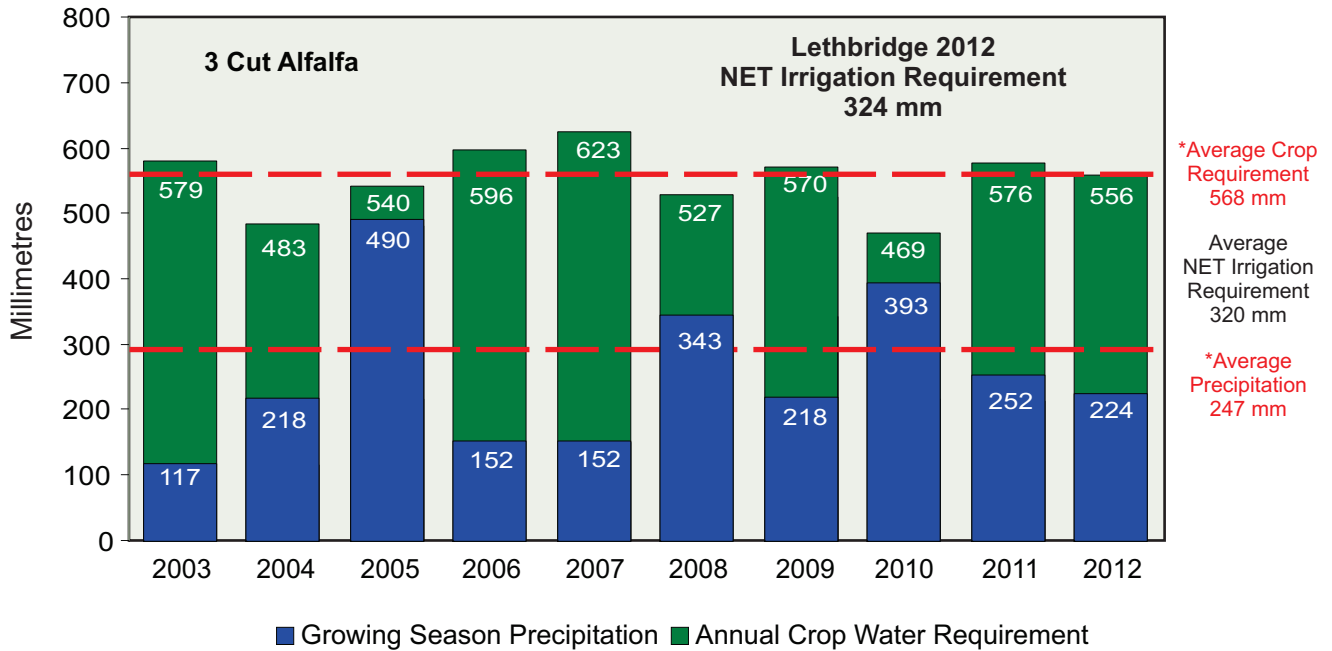


Figure 11. Lethbridge Optimum Crop Water and Net Irrigation Requirements (2003 - 2012)

Note: The high water use crop, 3 cut alfalfa is used in these examples because this crop’s annual growing season closely coincides with the annual irrigation season.

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 1997 to 2012. Seasonal precipitation from May 1 to September 30.

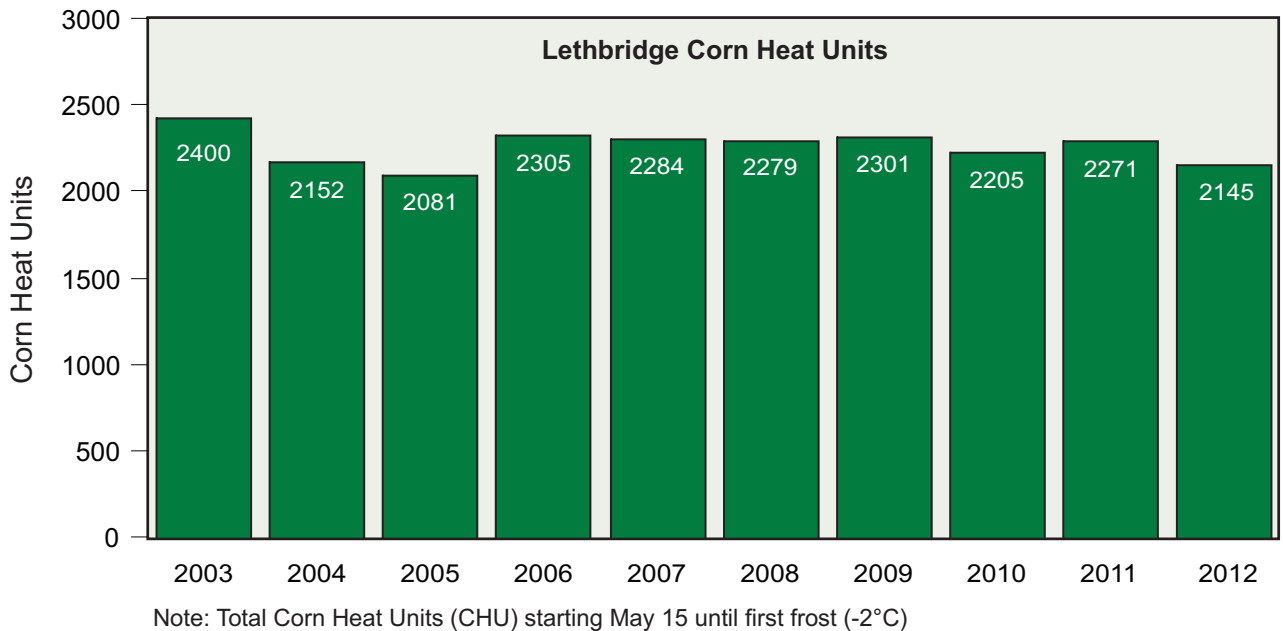


Figure 12. Lethbridge Corn Heat Units (2003 - 2012)

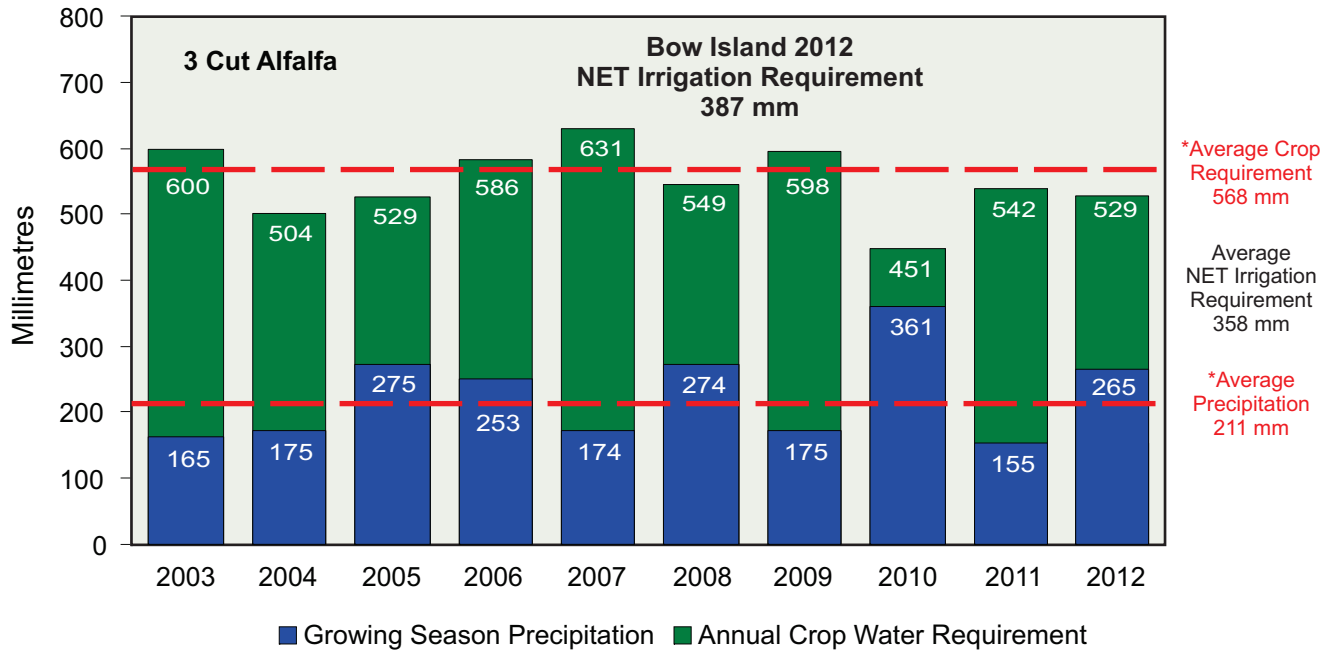
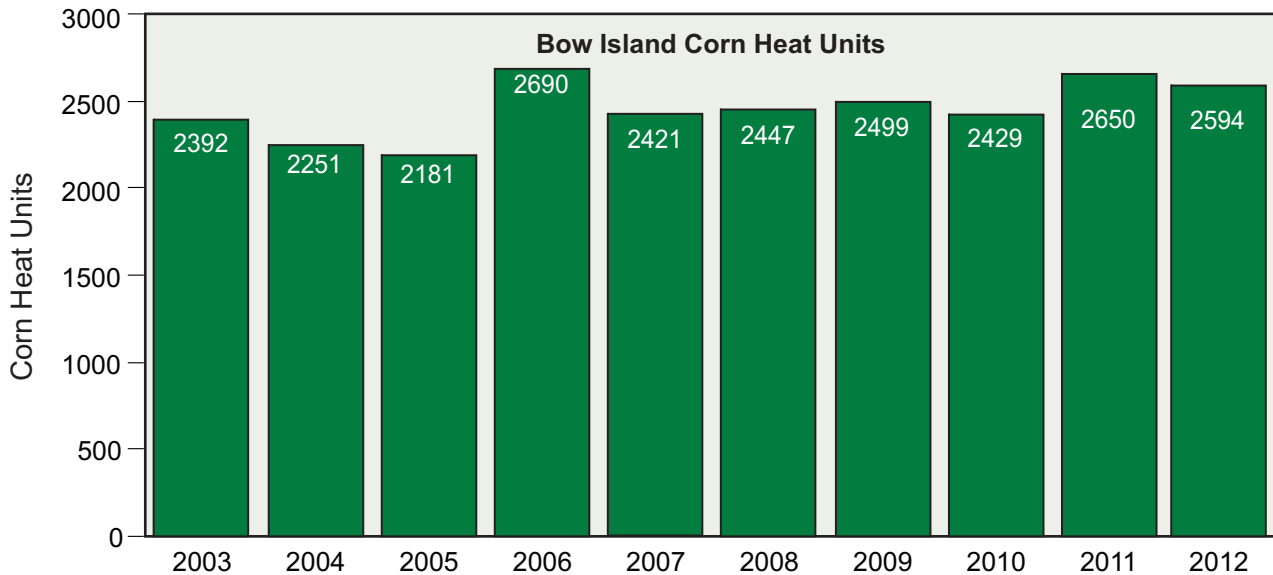


Figure 13. Bow Island Optimum Crop Water and Net Irrigation Requirements (2003 - 2012)

Note: The high water use crop, 3 cut alfalfa is used in these examples because this crop's annual growing season closely coincides with the annual irrigation season.

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 1997 to 2012. Seasonal precipitation from May 1 to September 30.



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

Figure 14. Bow Island Corn Heat Units (2003 - 2012)

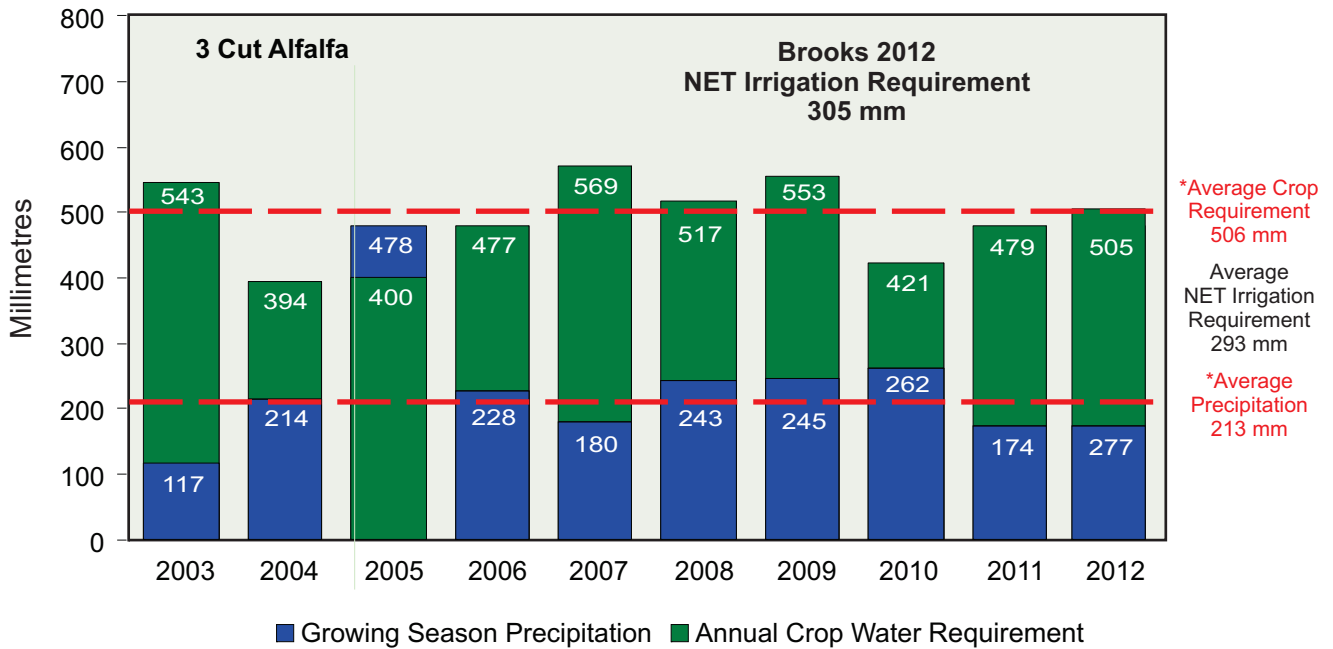
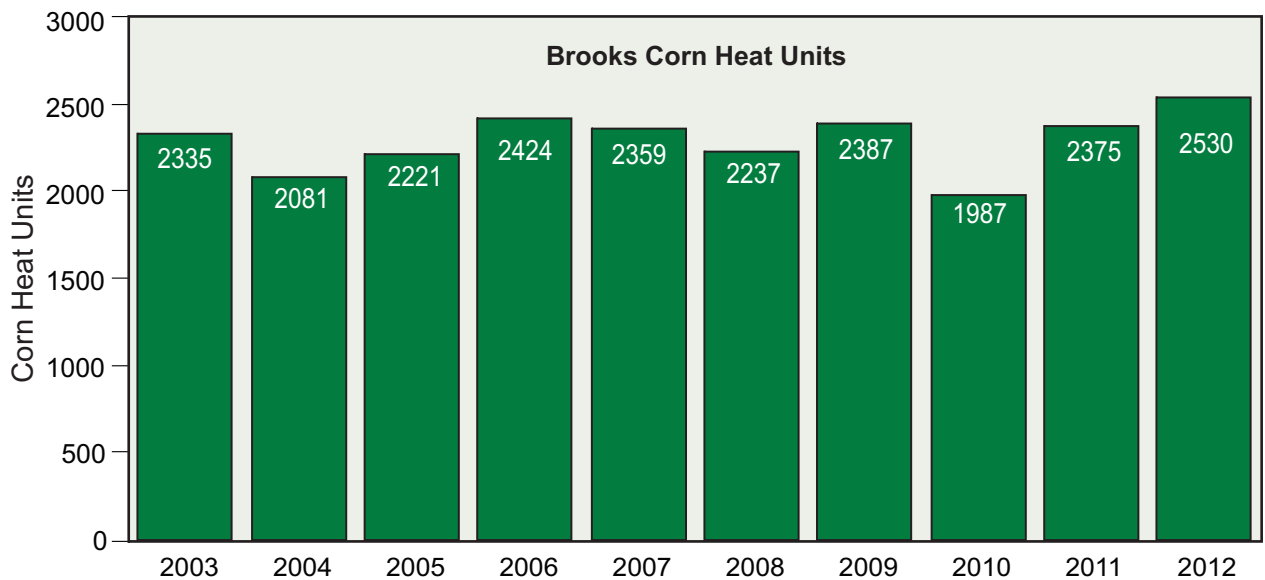


Figure 15. Brooks Optimum Crop Water and Net Irrigation Requirements (2003 - 2012)

Note: The high water use crop, 3 cut alfalfa is used in these examples because this crop's annual growing season closely coincides with the annual irrigation season.

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 1997 to 2012. Seasonal precipitation from May 1 to September 30.



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

Figure 16. Brooks Corn Heat Units (2003 - 2012)

Table 17. Historical Rainfall in Southern Alberta (April 15 to October 15)

AREA	MAXIMUM RAINFALL (mm)	MINIMUM RAINFALL (mm)	NORMAL RAINFALL* (mm)	2012 RAINFALL (mm)	2012 % OF NORMAL
Lethbridge	534 (1978)	71 (2001)	276	258	93%
Bow Island	439 (1993)	112 (2001)	256	317	124%
Brooks	484 (2005)	87 (2001)	241	317	132%

Note: * Normal rainfall 1970 - 2012

Table 18. Historical Corn Heat Units in Southern Alberta (May 15 to First -2° C Frost)

AREA	MAXIMUM CHU (2003-2012)	MINIMUM CHU (2003-2012)	LAST TEN YEAR AVERAGE*	2012 CHU	2012 % OF LAST TEN YEAR AVERAGE
Lethbridge	2400 (2003)	2081 (2005)	2242	2145	96%
Bow Island	2690 (2006)	2181 (2005)	2455	2594	98%
Brooks	2530 (2012)	1987 (2010)	2294	2530	96%

Note: * Last ten year average 2003 - 2012

Table 19. Frost Free Period (0° C) in Southern Alberta

AREA	AVERAGE LAST FROST	AVERAGE FIRST FROST	AVERAGE FROST FREE DAYS*	2012 LAST FROST	2012 FIRST FROST	2012 FROST FREE DAYS	2012 % OF NORMAL
Lethbridge	May 18	Sept 19	124	May 11	Sept 12	124	100%
Bow Island	May 12	Sept 23	134	May 11	Sept 11	123	92%
Brooks	May 20	Sept 13	116	May 12	Sept 11	122	105%

Note: * Average frost free days 1971 - 2000

Table 20. Frost Free Period (-2° C) in Southern Alberta

AREA	AVERAGE LAST FROST	AVERAGE FIRST FROST	AVERAGE FROST FREE DAYS*	2012 LAST FROST	2012 FIRST FROST	2012 FROST FREE DAYS	2012 % OF NORMAL
Lethbridge	May 2	Sept 29	150	May 11	Sept 12	124	83%
Bow Island	Apr 30	Oct 1	154	April 21	Oct 4	166	108%
Brooks	May 5	Sept 28	146	May 11	Oct 3	145	99%

Note: Average frost free days 1971 - 2000

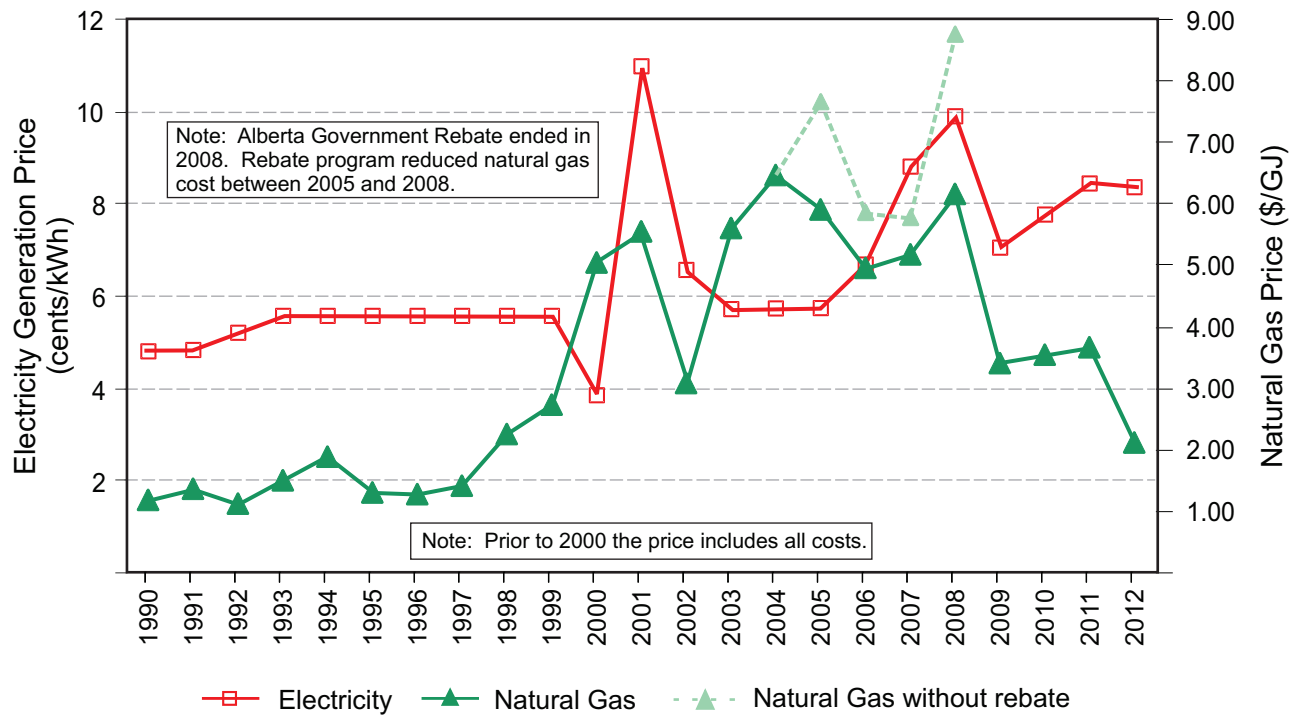
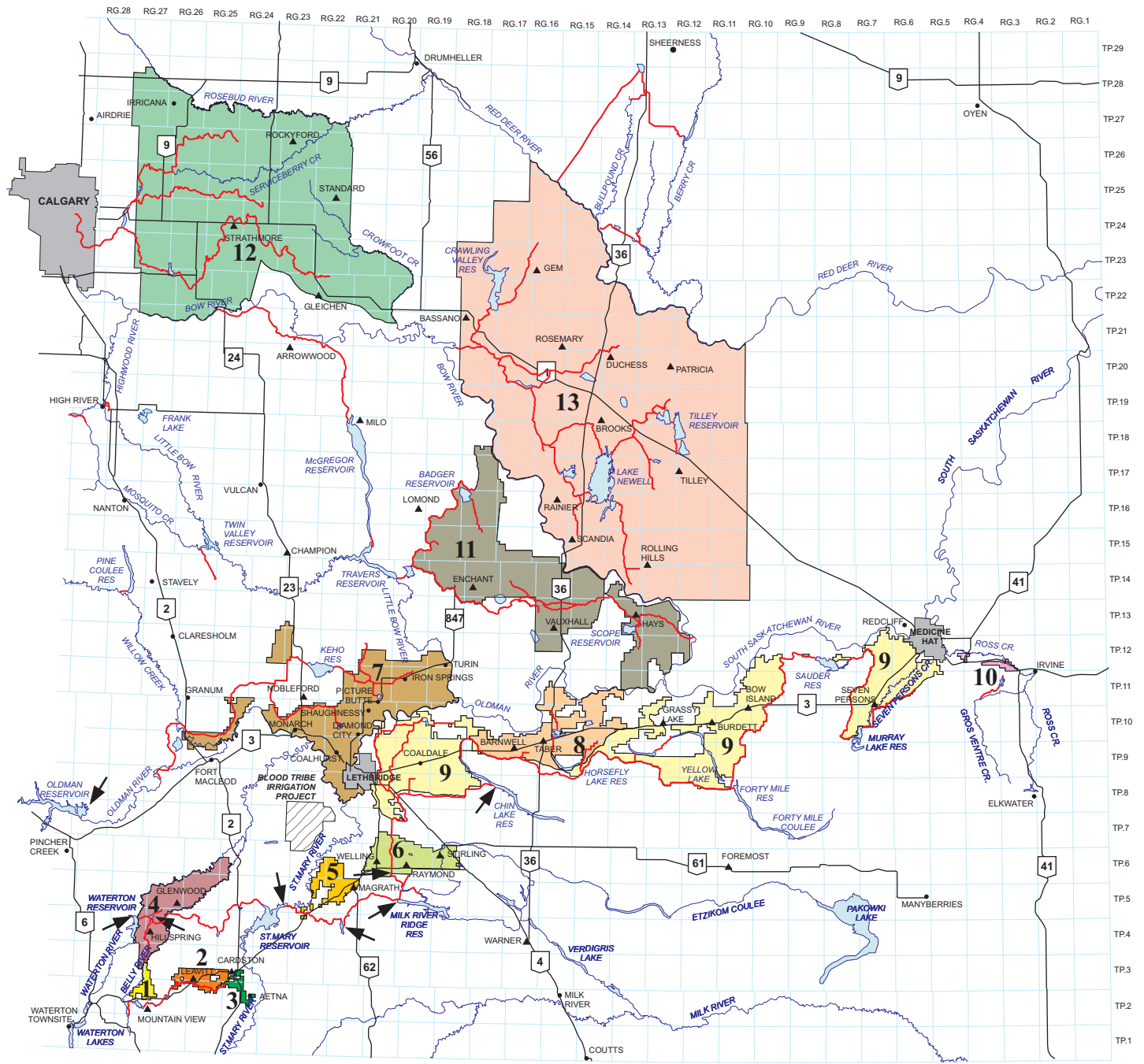


Figure 17. Historical Irrigation Energy Prices (average prices from May to September)

Table 21. Energy Type Used in the Irrigation Districts (acres irrigated by energy type)

Energy Type	BRID	EID	LNID	MID	RCID	SMRID	TID	UID	WID	Average Energy Type
Electricity	72.9%	42.8%	48.1%	8.2%		58.9%	59.4%	51.6%	32.7%	53.4%
	158,390	126,185	83,143	1,499		213,137	47,413	10,707	26,731	
Natural Gas	12.4%	24.6%	38.7%	58.3%		35.7%	35.7%	5.4%	32.0%	29.0%
	26,883	72,398	66,885	10,666		129,075	28,534	1,118	26,152	
Diesel	3.1%	4.5%	0.8%	0.0%		0.8%	1.0%	0.6%	10.0%	2.7%
	6,771	13,173	1,401	0		2,842	768	132	8,134	
Gravity	6.6%	21.7%	1.5%	16.9%		1.8%	3.1%	23.9%	9.0%	8.4%
	14,393	63,802	2,626	3,084		6,367	2,481	4,972	7,337	
Gravity Pressure Pipeline	4.0%	2.4%	9.2%	16.5%	100.0%	2.5%	0.6%	15.6%	8.5%	4.4%
	8,599	6,985	15,881	3,021	1,075	9,180	455	3,229	6,925	
Pump Pressure Pipeline	0.4%	2.3%	0.1%	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	0.2%	0.7%
	913	6,851	258	0		0	0	587	125	
Other*	0.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.2%		0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	7.8%	1.0%
	1,133	2,547	1,194	30		1,157	170	19	6,342	
Unknown	0.1%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%		0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%
	209	2,691	1,587	0		236	15	0	0	
Total Acres	217,291	294,632	172,975	18,300	1,075	361,994	79,836	20,764	81,746	1,248,613

Notes: – * other includes gasoline, propane or butane
 – AID, LID, MVID, and RID 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

- ▲ Communities receiving irrigation water
- Communities not receiving irrigation water
- ↙ Hydroelectric plants associated with water distribution works
- Main canals

There are 13 irrigation districts in southern Alberta providing water to 1,371,930 assessed acres of farmland. The infrastructure within these irrigation districts is comprised of approximately 7,900 kilometres of conveyance system, of which 339 kilometres are owned and operated by Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.

Figure 18. Alberta's Irrigation Districts

Data Dictionary

Actually irrigated: A parcel of assessed land that includes an irrigation system and received water during the current year.

Assessed and covered by an irrigation system: A parcel of land recorded on the irrigation district assessment roll 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.

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

Assessment roll acres: These include irrigation, terminable, and annual acres. To learn more about assessments, link to the [Alberta Irrigation Districts Act](#).

Irrigation acres: Acres in a parcel recorded on the assessment roll as irrigation acres. Subject to an irrigation charge.

Terminable acres: Acres in a parcel recorded on the assessment roll as terminable acres. The agreement is terminable at the option of either party by giving notice before March 1. Subject to a terminable agreement charge.

Annual acres: Acres in a parcel recorded on the assessment roll as annual acres. The agreement expires at the end of the calendar year. Subject to an annual agreement charge.

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 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 four categories: cereals, forages, oil seeds, specialty crops, and other.

Cereals: Annual grasses grown for their grain. Crops reported include barley, 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, millet, 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, and mustard.

Specialty Crops: Include fruits and vegetables, horticulture, seed production, pulse crops, and nursery crops. Crops reported include alfalfa seed, canola seed, carrots, catnip, 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, safflower, seed potatoes, small fruit, soy beans, sugar beets, and sunflower.

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

Delivered for Irrigation: All water delivered by an irrigation district through its infrastructure for the purpose of irrigation.

Expansion Limit: The total 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 period of time where the minimum daily temperature does not drop below 0°C.

Frost Free Period (-2°C): Continuous period of time 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.

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.

Irrigation District Annual Water Rate: The annual amount charged by an irrigation district per assessed acre of land for irrigation water. 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, contrivance or thing or any artificial body of water or watercourse used or to be used by a district.

Rehabilitated: Includes membrane-lined canals, concrete-lined canals, earth canals, closed pipelines, and open pipelines.

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

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

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

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

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

Un-rehabilitated: Consists of un-rehabilitated canals.

Un-rehabilitated canal: An open channel that was constructed through the native material.

Irrigation method: 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.

Pivot low pressure – corner arm: Centre pivot irrigation system with low pressure (less than 30 psi) spray nozzles with the addition of a secondary pivotal arm connected to the end of the centre pivot boom.

Linear – low pressure: Linear move pivot irrigation system with low pressure (less than 30 psi) spray nozzles that irrigates a rectangular field.

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 – no control: 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 flood: 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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

Reservoir Storage: Net change in irrigation district reservoir storage volume. 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.

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

Total District Operations: Total volume of water used for irrigation district operations comprised of water delivered for irrigation, other uses, water lost to seepage and evaporation, and water returned.

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 divert annually.

Water Source: The origin of the watercourse that is diverted by an irrigation district.