



## vegetablesWA: A web-based expert system for efficient vegetable irrigation on sandy soils

*Project No: 041 04G*

### Description:

vegetablesWA received \$276,000 towards a total project value of \$519,000 for a research project to consolidate the best management practice knowledge currently available into a software/internet-based expert system capable of calculating and guiding efficient irrigation and fertilisation for vegetable crops growing on sandy soil.

In addition to the funding from the Premier's Water Foundation, vegetablesWA was supported by the WA Department of Agriculture and Food, which provided scientific and technical information for this project.

### Progress/Status of research:

Stage A of the project – to present current recommended efficient irrigation practice in an easy-to-use framework for irrigators as a web-based tool – was completed and officially launched by the Minister for Water Resources on Thursday 9 August 2007.

Additionally, a mobile phone text messaging service has been developed where growers can subscribe to be notified on a daily basis at a specific time on evaporation (24 hours) and rainfall figures from a pre-selected Department of Agriculture and Food weather station and on the Bureau of Meteorology weather forecast.

Completion of the first stage alone indicates 10GL per annum groundwater saving. This project supplements the Government initiatives such as the metering and water management plans. It also links with the WaterWise on the Farm programs delivered by the Swan Catchment Council in the Perth metro area and by the Department of Agriculture and Food in the South West of the state.

The project has now moved to Stage B to create an intelligent irrigation scheduling system.

[vegetablesWA website](#)

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