



Agrilink Florida Inc.
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Georgia Pepper Grower Saves 25% Using Drip Tape and C-Probes

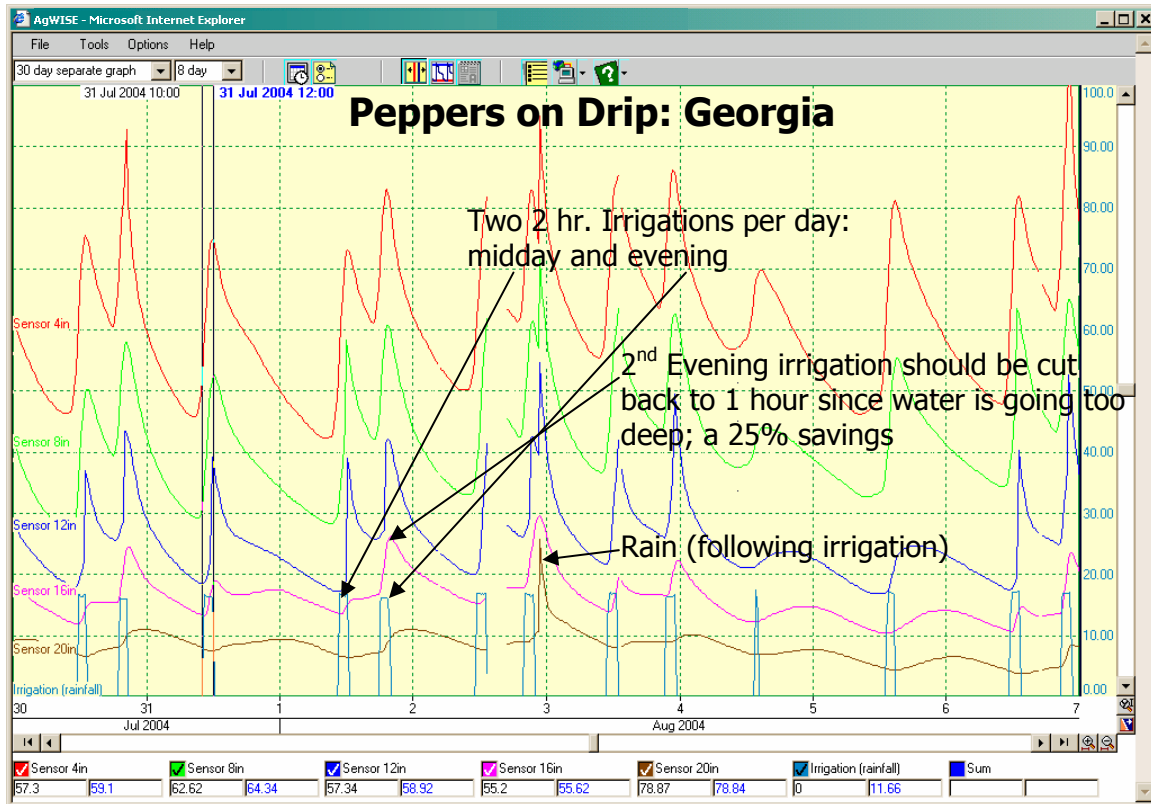
Agrilink Florida Inc. is your source for C-Probe™ capacitance soil moisture probes, MetSpy™ weather stations, TerraCom™ telemetry units, and AgWISE™, Agrilink's premier Internet based analysis software that displays your crop data, viewable from anywhere that you have Internet access.

This is a case study of a Bell Pepper grower located near Tifton, Georgia. The grower used Aqua-TRAXX Drip Tape under white plastic. The data is from the 2004 season. The soil was a sandy loam. The C-Probe™, with 5 sensors placed at 4, 8, 12, 16, and 20 inches in depth, was placed through the plastic mulch between two pepper plants within 4 inches of a drip tape emitter. The C-Probe™ was attached to a GSM/GPRS cellular modem and the data was uploaded to AgWISE™ every 15 minutes. An Irrigation Gauge was also attached with an external emitter tied into the drip tape to monitor how long the drip irrigation system ran.

Below is a picture of the field with the C-Probe™ (marked with a blue circle) and telemetry system.



Following, are some screen shots from AgWISE™ showing some soil moisture graphs from this plot.



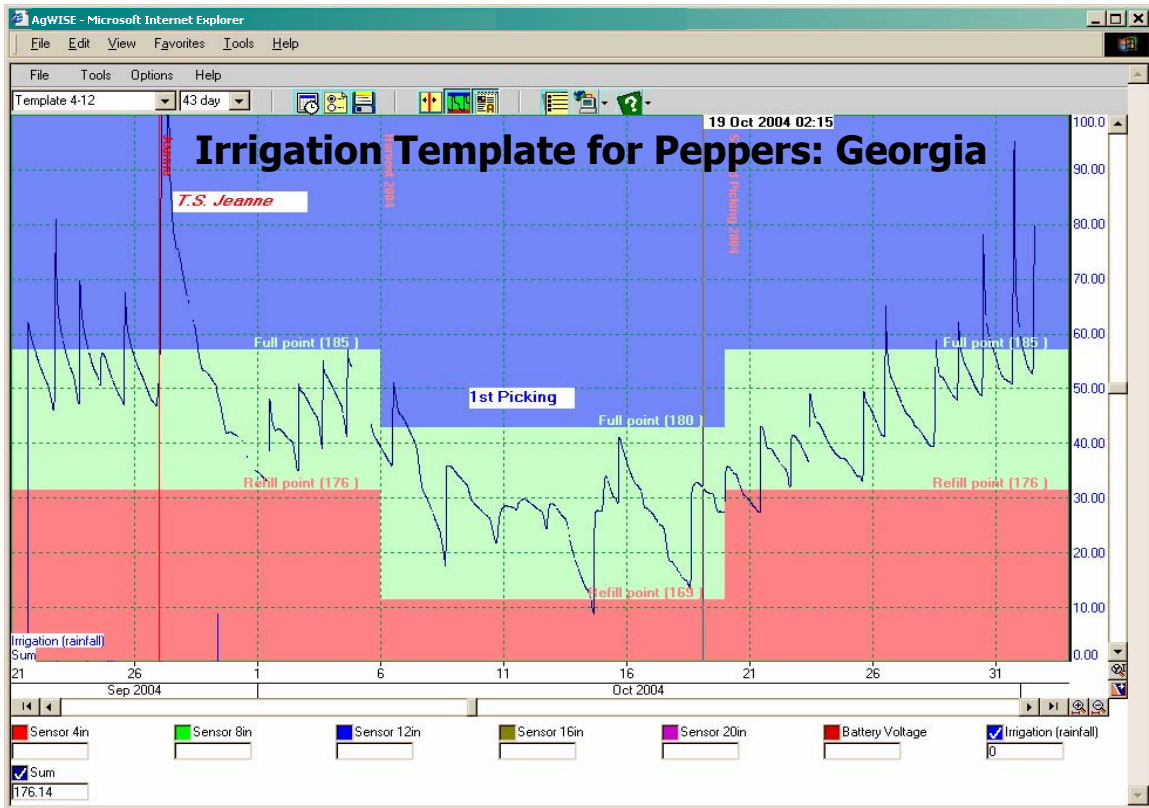
In the first graph above, the individual sensors from the C-Probe™ are shown, in order, as in the soil profile. This grower was applying two 2-hour drip irrigation applications per day. The first irrigation was applied between 10:00 am and Noon and the second between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Because the second irrigation occurred during a time of day with less ET, evapotranspiration, the water went deeper into the soil through the 16-inch level, where there was no root activity. This was a wasted irrigation since it went beyond the active root zone, which was found to be between 4 and 12 inches. Thus the grower changed his second evening application to 1-hour and reduced his overall water use, and pumping costs, by 25% (decreased from 4 hours per day to 3 hours). This also reduced leaching of expensive nutrients beyond the root zone during fertigation applications.

The second graph on the next page is a summed graph that displays an “Irrigation Template”. The blue area is over saturation. The green area is the optimal moisture level for a given crop. And the red area is too dry. The line between the green and blue area is called the “Full Point” and the line between the red and green area is called the “Refill Point”.

These management lines, or irrigation templates, can be varied depending on the physiological cycle that the crop is in, or based on harvesting cycles, maintaining different moisture levels based on the crop’s needs as it progresses throughout the season.



The grower can also mark significant events, such as Tropical Storm Jeanne that dumped a lot of rain in late September which saturated the soil.



Agrilink Florida Inc. has also collected soil moisture data on citrus, vegetables, and other crops in Florida, including tomatoes using drip tape from the Ft. Pierce area, Strawberries using drip near Wimauma, potatoes using seepage irrigation from the Immokalee area, and containerized oak trees in Lake County.

Contact Chet Townsend for a full presentation on AgWISE™ and C-Probes™, and to view examples of other crop data.

Agrilink Florida Inc. offers both a purchase and a rental program that should fit everyone's budget, providing service after the sale. We are confident that using C-Probes™ and AgWISE™ will help you improve your crop yields while reducing your irrigation costs. On average, growers using these tools make a 30% improvement to their bottom line, which should more than pay for itself in a very short time period.

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