



**AUSTRALIA**

**Irrigated crop calendar**

**2013**

Calendar used in 2012 'Irrigation water use' study is downloadable in [PDF](#)

Irrigated crops	Area	Crop area as percentage of the full control equipped and actually irrigated area by month											
	1000 ha	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Rice	114	5	5	5	5								5
Other cereals	301	13	13	13	13								13
Vegetables	103	4	4	4	4								4
Fruits	135	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Grapes	137	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Sugarcane	170	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Cotton	365	15	15	15	15	15	15						15
Other temporary crops	88	4	4	4	4								4
Fodder temporary	188					8	8	8	8	8	8		
Flowers	11	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Other permanent crops	51	2	2	2	2								2
Pasture permanent	715	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
<b>Harvested irrigated crop area [AHI<sub>full</sub>]</b>	<b>2 378</b>												
<b>Area equipped for full control irrigation actually irrigated [AAI<sub>full</sub>]</b>	<b>2 378</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Cropping intensity (%) = 100 x [AHI<sub>full</sub>]/[AAI<sub>full</sub>]</b>	<b>100</b>												
<b>Area equipped for full control irrigation [AEI<sub>full</sub>]</b>	<b>2 546</b>	*											
<b>% of full control equipped actually irrigated = 100 x [AAI<sub>full</sub>]/[AEI<sub>full</sub>]</b>													
<b>Total area equipped for irrigation [AEI<sub>tot</sub>]</b>	<b>2 546</b>	* This area refers to the year 2006											



## Narrative Australia

$AEI_{full}$  for 2006 (2 545 000 ha), the historic largest irrigated area in Australia, is also  $AEI_{tot}$  (ABS, 2011). This area is considered fully operative, as  $AHI_{full}$  in 2006 equals to  $AEI_{full}$ . However, during the period 2007-2010 the irrigated area has been significantly reduced due to the lack of available water (drought period). The  $AHI_{full}$  for the cropping year 2012-2013 is 2 377 959 ha recovering significantly from the historic low of 2008-2009 with 1.760 million ha (ABS, 2011).  $AAI_{full}$  is assumed to equal to  $AHI_{full}$ . Permanent pastures and temporary fodder are the main irrigated crop (38 percent of  $AHI_{full}$ ). The area cropped with rice is highly dependent on the water availability explaining the huge difference between years: it was cropped on 19 000 ha only during the drought in 2010, but increased to 114 000 ha in 2013 once more water was available. Most temporary crops are irrigated during summer (from December to April or to June for cotton), except fodder.

## References

**ABS.** 2014. *Water use on Australian farms, 2012-13*. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4618.0>, accessed in January 2015.