

Water Management Policy

The following policy takes into account the ways in which JC & MW Suckley use water and also the measures we have in place in order that we use this limited resource efficiently whilst also avoiding pollution.

Irrigation

- ❑ When applying for a new abstraction licence, the daily and annual volumes are calculated based on the many factors as identified in the irrigation regime below.
- ❑ Irrigation regime : At the beginning of the season an irrigation regime is devised taking into account soil type, geographical location, likely rainfall, crop variety, crop market and target harvest date.
- ❑ The amount of water to be applied is carefully monitored, recorded and scheduled throughout the season, with the aid of neutron probes, rain gauges, met office forecasts and the spade.
- ❑ The equipment that we use is overhauled annually and is subject to regular updates. These include the fitting of variable angle rain guns to reduce drift and newer generation computers so that the rate at which the rain guns are pulled in is precise. This, together with narrow land spacing all helps to maximise the evenness of application.
- ❑ Pipes are inspected daily for leaks and an estimated 80-90% of the pipe work is over ground, so that when leaks do occur they can be noticed and repaired quickly.
- ❑ We avoid use of rain-guns in windy conditions.
- ❑ On sloping fields to be irrigated Dam-Dyking is carried out. This aims to greatly reduce run-off, by creating shallow ridges, between and at right angles to the potato ridges themselves.
- ❑ Where practical to do so, reservoirs are used to facilitate winter storage of water.
- ❑ On some sites where practical we boom type irrigators.
- ❑ We avoid Water pollution