

Improvement of water use efficiency on potato production 2- Calculated crop coefficient for potato crop under different irrigation regimes

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ABSTRACT

Two field experiments were carried out at Mallawi requirements research station El-Minia Governorate, Egypt; Water Management Research Institute – National Water Research Center during 2012 and 2013 seasons.

The aim of this investigation is to evaluate the effect of the different irrigation regimes and potassium fertilization rates on crop coefficient of potato. Also it evaluate and compare the potential evapotranspiration (ET_p) with actual water requirement under El-Minia Governorate conditions. The experiment included five treatments of irrigation regimes (A) and four treatments of potassium fertilization (B) with three replicates so that the experiment was arranged in a split plot design. The irrigation regime treatments were treatmental irrigation (the farmers practices, 100%, 90%, 80% and 70% of field capacity). Potassium rates was applied in a form of potassium sulphate (48% K_2O) at rate 200 kg/fed. (b_1), 100 kg K_2O /fed. + potasine (Biofertilizer) at rate 6 liters/fed (b_2), 100 kg/fed. + potasine (Biofertilizer) at rate 6 liters/fed. + potassium foliar (36% K_2O) at rate 2 liters/fed. (b_3) and Potassium (biofertilizer) at rate 6 liters/fed (b_4).

These results indicated that the first irrigation treatment where plants irrigated with conventional irrigation had the highest value of actual consumptive use (daily and seasonal). This was due to the decrease in the value of tension moisture of the first treatment which led to increasing the water actual consumptive use. While, the fifth irrigation treatment for plants irrigated until 70% of field capacity had the lowest value of actual consumptive use (daily and seasonal). The application of Potassium fertilization caused a slight decrease in daily, monthly and seasonal actual evapotranspiration (ET_a), in both seasons. Modified Penman and modified Blaney & Criddle gave high average values for potential evapotranspiration (ET_p) (63.24 and 56.50 cm/season) while radiation method and pan method gave less average values (53.99 and 49.11 cm/season) for the two studied seasons respectively. The actual values of evapotranspiration were less than those computed by climatological equations. This is due to the estimated factors in these equations.

The average values of potential evapotranspiration (ET_p) for the two studied seasons, by modified Blaney & Criddle and radiation method were the nearest values to general average (+1.41 and -3.09% respectively). While, the farthest values to general average were obtained by modified Penman and Pan method (+13.52 and -11.85% respectively). Kc average were 0.76, 0.72, 0.71, 0.70 and 0.68 for A_1 , A_2 , A_3 , A_4 and A_5 under all sub-treatments respectively. Modified Blaney & Criddle was the nearest to the actual consumptive use.

Therefore, recommended for calculating the potential evapotranspiration using modified Blaney & Criddle or radiation method for potato plants which grow under El-Minia conditions and other corresponding conditions.

Key words: Water Use Efficiency, Potato Production, crop coefficient, irrigation regimes.

INTRODUCTION

Water is fast becoming an economically scarce resource in many areas of the world, especially in arid and semi-arid regions. In Egypt, there are many plans for increasing cultivable land and agriculture production to overcome the problems of food security. In this regard, soil moisture is one of the most important factors which influence the yield and quality of crops as affect the chemical, biological and physical conditions of the soil. Available water in the soil is essential for the life and function of plants. Water is necessary for growth, nutrient, absorption, transpiration, biological reactions and many other life activities. Therefore, water requirements should be achieved to reach a well controlled scientific use of water. In all countries, all over the world, water is considered a limiting factor in agricultural expansion.

Measuring or calculating evapotranspiration rate could be achieved by many methods such as soil moisture depletion method and using the meteorological data throughout the growth seasons. The later method leads to evaluate an imperial constant, for specific vegetation grown in a particular location, which can be used afterwards as an index for direct calculation of evapotranspiration. For many years, certain types of climatological data such as temperature, precipitation, solar radiation, wind speed...etc. have been correlated.

The determination of crop coefficient (K_c) can be used to relate reference crop evapotranspiration (ET_p) to maximum crop evapotranspiration when water supply fully meets water requirements of the crop. Rijtema (1966) stated that there are many methods to calculate the potential evapotranspiration. Some of these methods or formulas give reasonable accuracy under certain climatological conditions. Other methods agree only with observed values if corrections for time lag and wind speed are applied. The value of crop coefficient in potato depended on the growth stage of the plant, the location of collected data and methods which used to calculate the reference evapotranspiration Doorenbos and Pruitt (1975) stated that Blaney – Criddle method may be used when temperature data are the only available measured weather data. They reported that the radiation method is more reliable than the presented Blaney & Criddle approach. In equatorial zones, on a small island or at high altitudes, the radiation method may be more reliable even if measured sunshine or cloudness data are not available. Solar radiation maps were prepared for most locations in the world, and they provide the necessary solar radiation data. Also found that stated that Blaney & Criddle method may be used when temperature data were the only available measured weather data. They reported that the radiation method was more reliable than the presented Blaney & Criddle approach. In equatorial zone, on a small island or at high altitudes, the radiation method might be more reliable even if measured sunshine or cloudless data were not available. Solar radiation maps were prepared for most locations in the world and they provided the necessary solar radiation data. They also pointed out that crop water requirements are normally expressed by the rate of evapotranspiration (ET) in mm/day or mm/period. The level of ET has been shown to be related to evaporative demand of air which could be expressed as reference evapotranspiration and added calculated the crop evapotranspiration by using the following formula:

$$ET_c = K_c \times ET_o$$

Where:

ET_c = Crop evapotranspiration

K_c = Crop coefficient

ET_o = Reference crop evapotranspiration

They added that the determination of crop coefficient (K_c) could be used as reference crop evapotranspiration (ET_o) to maximum crop evapotranspiration when water supply full met water requirements of the crop.

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Van der Molen (1976) stated that crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) was less than potential evapotranspiration (ET_p) for short grass due to:

- a. Moisture shortage.
- b. The inadequate covering of the crop (e.g., young beets).
- c. End of growth period (e.g. ripening cereals).

Thus, the evapotranspiration of arable land was often less than that of grass land. On the other hand, ET_p of short grass was less than ET_p of tall crops when they were provided with irrigation water. Wright (1981) defined reference crop ET, as being equal to daily alfalfa ET when the crop occupies an extensive surface, is actively growing standing erect and at least 20 cm tall and well watered soil water availability. Ferdous *et al.*, (1985) indicated that crop coefficient values obtained from ratios between actual evapotranspiration of potato and potential (ET) of Alfalfa at the different growth stages were 0.3 at emergence stage, 1.23 during full cover stage and 0.48 at maturity. Doorenbos and Kassam (1986) reported that potatoes crop coefficient changed with growth season as 0.4 to 0.5 during establishment, 0.7 to 0.8 during early vegetation, 1.05 to 1.2 during stolonization, 0.85 to 0.95 during yield formation and 0.7 to 0.75 during ripening. Vermiren and Jobling (1986) reported that the accuracy of determined ET crop depends on type of climatic data available, and the accuracy of the method chosen to estimate ET_o . They also concluded that Penman and radiations methods are best for near estimates over short periods of about 10 days. The pan evaporation method is often the second choice, but can be superior with excellent sitting and light winds. Also, they reported that Blaney & Criddle method is the best for a period of one month. Eid *et al.* (1987) reported that the average crop coefficient was 0.78 for winter potatoes while the average crop coefficient was 0.77 for that growing in the summer. Semaika and Rady (1987) recommended any of modified Blaney & Criddle or the radiation formulas for estimating evapotranspiration of wheat, field beans and clover for Giza area - Egypt, with the average crop coefficient due highest accuracy. Oweis *et al.* (1988) found that the potato crop coefficient changed in response to crop growth stages < 0.5 during plant emergence stage, to about 0.8 at maximum crop leaf area then decreased to be < 0.5 just before harvesting stage. Stansell *et al.* (1990) found that crop coefficient initially increased then decreased with the plant age, when pan evaporation method, under three soil moisture tension was used. Ali (1993) showed that values of potato crop coefficient estimated by using Penman formula and actual evapotranspiration rates were low at the initial stage, then increased to reach its maximum value at mid season stage (the period of tuberization), then a sharp decrease in crop coefficient was observed at the end of the season. Seasonal crop coefficients were found to be 0.75 and 0.77 for summer and fall plantation, respectively. El-Naggar (1997) found that the calculated values of crop coefficient (K_c), using actual evapotranspiration measured either gravimetrically or by neutron probe and reference evapotranspiration determined by using Penman or Pan evaporation equations, were slightly differed at the same concerning periods, and under the same irrigation treatments (600, 450 and 300 mm/season, respectively) The values of K_c were increased with increasing the amounts of added irrigation water. The average values of potato K_c were 1.02, 0.92 and 0.64 for K_c Penman – GM and 0.92, 0.87 and 0.65 for K_c Penman Np. While these values were; 0.95, 0.84 and 0.6 for K_c GM, and 0.85, 0.8 and 0.6 for K_c Pan - Np under the above-mentioned application rates of irrigation water. Allen *et al.*, (1998) for ET_r the crop coefficients for potatoes at different stages were 0.42, 0.85, 1.27, and 0.57 for initial, crop development, reproductive and maturity stages, respectively. These values are similar to the FAO 56 values, except during the reproductive stage. Omar and Eid (1999) compared 6 ET formula with the measured ET values in Bahtim (South Delta), they found that Doorenbos – Pruitt method had

the best estimation followed by the evaporation pan and then the Penman – Monteith method. The fourth one, in order, was modified, Penman.

They found also that the values of Penman – Monteith method and the modified Penman, introduced a new method which gives estimates of ET_0 near to those of the best method of Doorenbos- Pruitt. Sahin *et al.* (2007) determined crop coefficients for sugarbeet and potato under cool season semiarid climate in Turkey. From May to October in 2003 and 2004, ET_c was measured by the water balance approach, and the ET_r by FAO Penman-Monteith. Seasonal ET_c was 493 mm for sugar beet and 445 mm for potato. The seasonal crop coefficient was 0.65 for sugarbeet, and 0.60 for potato. Daniel *et al.* (2013) study quantify and water consumption and the crop coefficients (Kc) for the potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.), in Seropedica, Rio de Janeiro (RJ), Brazil, under organic management and to simulate the crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) using the Kc obtained in the field and the ones recommended by the food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The water consumption was obtained through soil water balance, using TDR probes installed at 0.15m and 0.30 deep. At the different stages of development, the Kc was determined by the ratio of ET_c and reference evapotranspiration, obtained by Penman-Monteith FAO56. The crop coefficients obtained were 0.35, 0.45, 1.29 and 0.63. Abubaker *et al.*, (2014) found that as experimentally evident, the weather conditions, water, soil characteristics and the agronomic techniques affect the crop growth and crop production. Yield components of potato were affected significantly by optimum irrigation treatment. There is a close agreement between the actually applied and the estimated water requirement for the potato crop, on the other hand Blaney & Criddle method could be adopted in the semi-arid environment of Sudan, because it is simple and only required the data on temperature and day length. The optimum amount of water for the best growth, yield and quality of the potato crop at Waramli area environment ranges between 560 and 600 mm/season, to be applied in 8-10 irrigation, depending on the prevailing weather conditions. Also results showed that the growth parameters and the yield were significantly response ($P < 0.05$) to the seasonal water supply. The tuber yield was increased during the first season on the behalf of water supplied as compared to other.

The objective of the present work was evaluated the effect of the different irrigation regimes and potassium fertilization rates on crop coefficient of potato, evaluate and compare the potential evapotranspiration (ET_p) equations with actual water requirement (ET_a) under El-Minia Governorate conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field experiments were carried out for two seasons Autumn and winter of 2012 and 2013 seasons, at Malloway, Water Requirements Research Station El-Minia Governorate; Water Management Research Institute - National Water Research Center. The present research was carried out to study the effect of irrigation system and different rates of potassium fertilization on water consumptive use, water applied and crop coefficient. The experiment included five irrigation regimes treatments (A_1) conventional irrigation by farmer practices, (A_2) Irrigation until 100% of field capacity, (A_3) irrigation until 90% of field capacity, (A_4) irrigation until 80% of field capacity and (A_5) irrigation until 70% of field capacity and four rates of potassium fertilization. Potassium rates was applied in a form of potassium sulphate (48% K_2O) at rate 200 kg/fed (b_1), 100 kg K_2O /fed. + potasine (Biofertilizer) at rate 6 liters/fed (b_2), 100 kg/fed. + potasine (Biofertilizer) at rate 6 liters/fed + potassium foliar (36% K_2O) at rate 2 liters/fed (b_3) and Potassium (biofertilizer) at rate 6 liters/fed (b_4). So that the experiment was arranged in a split plot design. The treatments of irrigation regimes were distributed at random in the main plots. While, potassium treatments were distributed at random in the sub-plots. The recommended N fertilizer (150 kg N/fed) were given in a form of ammonium sulphate (20.6% N) (at rate 50 ammonium sulphate kg/fed) was added before planting during soil preparation to stimulate germination and

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ammonium nitrate (33.5% N) was divided into two equal parts (at rate 200kg ammonium nitrate in every part/fed) and applied at side dressing at 45 and 60 days after planting. While phosphorus (62 kg P₂O₅) was applied before cultivation during soil preparation in a form of calcium super phosphate (15.5% P₂O₅). Other cultural practices were done as a recommended for potato production. Soil analyses showed that soil texture was clay, field capacity (38.2%) was determined by field method according to (Black 1965) and Kluge (1986). All the agronomic practice except the irrigation treatment and potassium rates were applied as a commonly use in growing.

Soil - water relationships

Recorded data:

Water consumptive use (CU)

The quantities of water consumptive use were calculated for the 60 cm soil depth which was assumed to be the depth of the roots zone as reported by many investigators.

Monthly and seasonal water consumptive use were calculated by the summation of water consumed for the different successive irrigation through the whole growth season. Water consumptive use per feddan (4200 m²) can be obtained by the following equation.

$$CU = \frac{\theta_2 - \theta_1}{100} \times B.d \times \frac{Depth}{100} \times Area (4200 m^2) \quad (\text{Israelsen and Hansen, 1962})$$

Where:

CU = Amount of water consumptive use.

θ_2 = Soil moisture content% after irrigation.

θ_1 = Soil moisture content before the next irrigation.

b.d = Bulk density (g/cm³).

Calculation of CU was repeated for all irrigations until the harvesting date.

Climatic Conditions

Some meteorological data during the two growing seasons are present in Table (1). Meteorological data obtained from meteorological Mallawy Station located at the 27.9° latitude and 30.5° longitude and its altitude is about 44 m above sea level. These data are used to get potential evapotranspiration mm/day by many empirical formula modified Penman, modified Blaney & Criddle, radiation method and pan method.

Table (1): The average of temperature , relative humidity%, wind speed (Km/day), sun shin (hours/day)and evaporation in the two studied seasons 2012&2013.

Month	Temperature (C)			Relative humidity (%)			Sunshine	Wind kg/day		Evaporation
	Max.	Min.	Average	Max.	Min.	Average	(hours/%)	M/s	Kg/day	(mm/day)
September	34.00	18.7	29.95	94.00	28.00	61.00	10.6	3.40	294.43	8.50
October	33.00	16.6	24.80	92.00	27.00	59.50	9.90	2.90	251.13	6.71
November	27.30	11.9	19.60	99.00	37.00	68.00	8.70	2.50	216.50	4.10
December	21.05	6.70	13.87	99.58	43.29	71.44	8.42	2.35	203.51	2.66

Potential Evapotranspiration (ET_P)

1- Modified Penman equation

$$ET_P = C \{(W \cdot R_n + 1 - W) \times F(u) \times (e_a - e_d)\}$$

Where:

ET_P = Reference crop evapotranspiration mm/day.

W = Temperature – related weighting factor.

R_n = Net radiation in equivalent evaporation in mm/day.

F(u) = Wind - related function.

e_a = Saturation vapour pressure of the air in (mbar).

e_d = Mean actual vapour pressure of the air in (mbar) = e_a x RH mean/100, in which,

RH = relative humidity.

(e_a – e_d) = Difference between the saturation vapour pressure at mean air temperature and the mean actual vapour pressure of the air, both in mbar.

c = Adjustment factor to compensate for the effect of day and night weather conditions.

2- Modified Blaney & Criddle equation

Blaney and Criddle (1955) observed that the amount of water consumptive used by crop during the growing seasons was closely correlated with means monthly temperature and day light hours.

$$ET_P = C \{P (0.64 T + 8.13)\}$$

Where:

ET_P = Potential evapotranspiration in mm/day.

T = Mean daily temperature in C^o.

P = Mean daily percentage of total annual day time hours for given month and latitude.

C = Adjustment factor which depends on minimum relative humidity, sunshine hours and day time wind estimate.

3- Radiation method

$$ET_P = C \times W \cdot R_s$$

Where:

ET_P = Reference crop evapotranspiration in mm/day.

R_s = The solar radiation expressed in equivalent evaporation in m/day.

W = Weighting factor which depends on temperature and altitude.

C = Adjustment factor which depends on mean humidity and day time wind conditions.

4- Pan evaporation method

Reference crop evapotranspiration (ET_P) can be obtained from the following equation

$$ET_P = K_P \times E_{pan}$$

Where:

K_P = Pan coefficient depends on the type of Pan , condition of Humidity, wind speed and pan environmental conditions (= 0.75).

E_{pan} = Pan evaporation in mm/day and represents the mean daily value of the period considered.

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Crop Coefficient (Kc)

Crop coefficient defined as the ratio between actual crop evapotranspiration (ET_a) and potential evapotranspiration (ET_p) when both are in large fields, under optimum growing conditions (FAO, 1977). In the experiment, the following equation was applied to compute the Kc values.

$$Kc = ET_a / ET_p$$

Where:

Kc = Crop coefficient

ET_a = Actual evapotranspiration

ET_p = potential evapotranspiration calculated by the four equations

(modified Penman, modified Blaney & Criddle, radiation method, and pan evaporation method).

Statistical analysis

proper statistical analysis of all data was carried out according to program SPSS version 20.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seasonal actual water consumptive use: (ET_a)

Seasonal water consumptive use (cm/season) are present in Table (2). These results show that irrigation regime affect significantly in the two studied seasons. The highest value are (43.76 cm/season) obtain from plants which irrigated by conventional irrigation (farmer practices) while, the lowest value are (39.49 cm/season) obtain from plants which irrigated until 70% of field capacity this is due to a decrease in the amount of water applied which led to reducing the amount of water consumed for this treatment. Also results show potassium rates affect significantly in the two studied seasons where the mean values of seasonal water consumptive use are 40.84, 41.37, 40.33 and 42.09 cm/season for b_1 , b_2 , b_3 and b_4 , respectively. While the highest value are obtain from b_4 (42.09 cm/season) and the lowest value of obtain from b_1 and b_3 (40.84, 40.33 cm/season), respectively. The reducing of seasonal ET_a by increasing potassium rates can be attributed to these plants may retain with more water in their tissues to face the stress condition of the lack of water. The truded cells of stomata that are rich in keep the stomata closed most of time, so transpiration rate decreased. However, there is no need for more water to absorb by plant roots which in turn reduce the amount of absorbed water. This result is logical as K well known to preserver more in plant tissues. Therefore, it is absorbed less water.

So these results reveal that the application of high levels of K fertilizer led to slight decreases in seasonal water consumptive use in the two studied seasons these results are in agreement with those reported by Abdel-Mottaleb (1987), Khalak and Kumaraswang (1996) and Gething (1997). With regard to the interactions between the studied factors, the results show that the highest value are obtain from A_1b_4 (45.37 cm/season) during both seasons while the lowest value of actual water consumptive use obtion from plants which irrigated by A_5 and b_3 (38.18 cm/seasan).

Table (2): Average values of seasonal water consumptive use (cm/seasons) for potato plants as affected irrigation regime and potassium fertilizer in both studied seasons.

Treatments Irrigation regimes (A)	water consumptive use (cm/season)				Mean (A)
	Potassium fertilizer (B)				
	b1	b2	b3	b4	
A1	42.96	44.04	42.67	45.37	43.76
A2	41.51	42.85	41.35	43.72	42.36
A3	40.67	41.45	40.38	42.36	41.22
A4	40.00	40.62	39.09	42.02	40.43
A5	39.05	39.70	38.18	41.03	39.49
Mean (B)	40.84	41.37	40.33	42.09	
L.S.D. 5%	A =1.46	B =2.15	AB=4.80		

A2- Irrigation until 100% of field capacity.

A3- Irrigation until 90% of field capacity.

A5- Irrigation until 70% of field capacity.

B2 - Potassium sulphate (48% K₂O) at rate 50 kg K₂O/fed. + Potasine (Biofertilizer) 6 liters/fed.

B3 - Potassium sulphate (48% K₂O) at rate 50 kg K₂O/fed. + Potasine (Biofertilizer) 6 liters/fed + potassium foliar 2 liters/fed.

B4 - Potasine (Biofertilizer) 6 liter/fed

A1- Conventional irrigation by farmer practices.

A4- Irrigation until 80% of field capacity.

B1 - Potassium sulphate (48% K₂O) at rate 100 kg K₂O/fed.

Daily actual water consumptive use (mm/day)

Daily data of actual consumptive use by the soil moisture depletion method, for potato crop is shown in Table (3). It could be notice that daily actual water consumptive use starts with small amount because small of little water needs of plants at initial growth stage, therefore, soil moisture are mainly affect by evaporation from soil surface at this time, with the advance with plant age, evapotranspiration increases and consequently the monthly consumptive use increased a plant foliage develops. The daily water consumptive use reaches its peak value in the middle of growing season (full formation of tubers), which is considered the critical period in water demands of crops. Then, it declines at the end of growing as the crop means the harvest and the water loss is almost due to evaporation from soil surface while a little is lost by consumptive use

Potential evapotranspiration (ET_p)

Data in Table (4) show that the computed values daily, monthly and seasonal potential evapotranspiration (mm/day, mm/month and mm/season) according to modified Penman, modified Blaney & Criddle, Radation method and Pan method for two studied seasons. It can be observe that the average lowest ET_p (49.11 mm/season) values are obtain from pan method during the two studied seasons. While the average highest ET_p (63.24 cm/season) are obtain from modified Penman during the two studied seasons. It could be noticed from data in Table (5) that the nearest ET_p values to the average are those which are obtain form Blaney and Criddle while, the fareast are those of modified Penman and Pan method. These results are in agreement with those of Doorenhboos and Pruitt (1975).

Table (3): Daily actual evapotranspiration (ET_a) (mm/day) for potato plants as affected by different treatments in the two studied seasons.

Mon th	A1				A2				A3				A4				A5			
	b1	b2	b3	b4																
	mm /day	mm/ day																		
Sep.	3.02	3.14	2.99	3.28	2.86	3.01	2.85	3.17	2.77	2.86	2.88	2.98	2.70	2.77	2.51	2.92	2.60	2.67	2.50	2.81
Oct.	3.71	3.79	3.72	3.89	3.61	3.70	3.59	3.70	3.55	3.60	3.52	3.69	3.50	3.54	3.37	3.65	3.43	3.47	3.36	3.57
Nov.	5.34	5.42	5.32	5.52	5.23	5.33	5.22	5.44	5.16	5.22	5.14	5.31	5.11	5.16	5.25	5.27	5.05	5.09	4.98	5.19
Dec.	3.25	3.37	3.18	3.52	3.08	3.24	3.06	3.31	2.99	3.08	2.83	3.21	2.91	2.98	2.72	3.13	2.8	2.88	2.7	3.03
Ave.	3.83	3.93	3.80	4.05	3.69	3.82	3.68	3.90	3.61	3.69	3.59	3.79	3.55	3.61	3.46	3.74	3.47	3.53	3.45	3.65

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Table (4): Computed daily monthly, seasonal evapotranspiration (mm) ET_p and deviation percentage in the two studies seasons.

Empirical formula	September		October		November		December		Seasonal ET_p		Deviation percentage
	Daily (mm)	Monthly (mm)	Daily (mm)	Monthly (mm)	Daily (mm)	Monthly (mm)	Daily (mm)	Monthly (mm)	mm/s.	cm/s.	
Modified Penman	8.79	184.59	6.72	208.32	5.15	154.5	4.25	85	632.41	63.24	+13.2
Modified Blaney & Criddle	6.78	142.38	6.01	186.31	4.97	149.1	4.39	87.8	565.59	56.56	+1.24
Radiation methods	7.13	149.73	5.86	181.66	4.57	137.1	3.85	77	545.49	54.55	-2.36
Pan method	4.49	94.29	5.23	162.13	4.99	149.7	4.25	85	491.12	49.11	-12.09
Average	6.7975	142.747	5.955	184.605	4.92	147.6	4.185	83.7	558.65		

Crop coefficient (K_c)

Effect of crop characteristics on crop water requirements are indicated by the crop coefficient (K_c) which represents the relationship between reference potential (ET_p) and actual crop evapotranspiration (ET_a). Data of crop coefficient of potato crop every irrigation treatment calculated using the actual evapotranspiration (ET_a) and potential evapotranspiration (ET_p), where ($K_c = ET_a/ET_p$), using the modified Penman, modified Blaney and Criddle, Radiation method and Pan method. The values of K_c for irrigation treatments are shown in Tables (5-24) and Figure (1). It is clear that the values of K_c show a slight increase with time after planting till they reach their peak in November (formation of tubers) and then they decrease again at the end of growth season. The highest K_c values are obtained from first irrigation treatment A_1 (0.76) while the lowest K_c values obtained from fifth irrigation treatment A_5 (0.68) under all semi – treatments, respectively. The values of crop coefficient average (K_c average) by many empirical formulae for irrigation treatment A_1 were 0.74, 0.76, 0.74 and 0.78, with average equal (0.76), for A_2 were 0.70, 0.71, 0.71 and 0.76 with average equal (0.72), for A_3 were 0.70, 0.71, 0.69 and 0.74 with average equal (0.71), for A_4 were 0.69, 0.70, 0.67 and 0.72 with average equal (0.70) and for A_5 were 0.67, 0.68, 0.66 and 0.71 with average equal (0.68) under semi – treatments, respectively. It could be noticed that the nearest values to average K_c those modified Blaney & Criddle while the farthest were those of pan method. These results are in agreement with those of Eid *et al.*, (1987) and Stansell *et al.* (1990).

The calculated evapotranspiration ($ET_{cal.}$)

The calculated evapotranspiration ($ET_{cal.}$) (cm/season) are shown in Table (25) for irrigation treatments using the relation $ET_{cal.} = K_c \text{ average} \times ET_p$ and its comparison with actual consumptive use (ET_a) for different irrigation treatments. Data in Table (25) and Figure (2) indicate that calculated evapotranspiration ($ET_{cal.}$) by radiation method and modified Blaney & Criddle method were easily clarify the degree of the calculated evapotranspiration where it nearest to actual water consumptive use than other equations. So, it could be recommended to use the equation radiation method followed by modified Blaney & Criddle for estimating ET_p in Minia region with the average crop coefficient due to the highest accruing for potato. These results are in agreement with those reported by Semika, and Rady (1987) and El-Tantawy (1997).

Table (5): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment (A_1b_1) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both									
	Average (CU) in two seasons	Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept	3.02	8.79	0.34	6.78	0.45	7.13	0.42	4.49	0.67	0.47
Oct.	3.71	6.72	0.55	6.01	0.62	5.86	0.63	5.23	0.71	0.63
Nov.	5.34	5.15	1.04	4.97	1.07	4.57	1.17	4.99	1.07	1.09
Dec.	3.25	4.25	0.76	4.36	0.75	3.85	0.84	4.25	0.76	0.78
Average	3.83	6.23	0.67	5.53	0.72	5.35	0.77	4.74	0.80	0.74
Index Number			90.54		97.30		104.05		108.11	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (6): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment (A_1b_2) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both									
	Average (CU) in two seasons	Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept	3.14	8.79	0.36	6.78	0.46	7.13	0.44	4.49	0.70	0.49
Oct.	3.79	6.72	0.56	6.01	0.63	5.86	0.65	5.23	0.72	0.64
Nov.	5.42	5.15	1.05	4.97	1.09	4.57	1.19	4.99	1.09	1.10
Dec.	3.37	4.25	0.79	4.36	0.77	3.85	0.88	4.25	0.79	0.81
Average	3.93	6.23	0.69	5.53	0.74	5.35	0.79	4.74	0.83	0.76
Index Number			90.79		97.37		103.95		109.21	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (7): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment (A_1b_3) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both									
	Average (CU) in two seasons	Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept	2.99	8.79	0.34	6.78	0.44	7.13	0.42	4.49	0.67	0.47
Oct.	3.72	6.72	0.55	6.01	0.62	5.86	0.63	5.23	0.71	0.63
Nov.	5.32	5.15	1.03	4.97	1.07	4.57	1.16	4.99	1.07	1.08
Dec.	3.18	4.25	0.75	4.36	0.73	3.85	0.83	4.25	0.75	0.76
Average	3.80	6.23	0.67	5.53	0.71	5.35	0.76	4.74	0.80	0.74
Index Number			90.54		95.95		102.70		108.11	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

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Table (8): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A_1b_4) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept	3.28	8.79	0.37	6.78	0.48	7.13	0.46	4.49	0.73	0.51	
Oct.	3.89	6.72	0.58	6.01	0.65	5.86	0.66	5.23	0.74	0.66	
Nov.	5.52	5.15	1.07	4.97	1.11	4.57	1.21	4.99	1.11	1.12	
Dec.	3.52	4.25	0.83	4.36	0.81	3.85	0.91	4.25	0.83	0.84	
Average	4.05	6.23	0.71	5.53	0.76	5.35	0.81	4.74	0.85	0.78	
Index Number			91.03		97.44		103.84		108.97	100.00	
			4		1		2		3		

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (9): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A_2b_1) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept	2.77	8.79	0.32	6.78	0.41	7.13	0.39	4.49	0.62	0.43	
Oct.	3.55	6.72	0.53	6.01	0.59	5.86	0.61	5.23	0.68	0.60	
Nov.	5.16	5.15	1.00	4.97	1.04	4.57	1.13	4.99	1.03	1.05	
Dec.	2.99	4.25	0.70	4.36	0.69	3.85	0.78	4.25	0.70	0.72	
Average	3.62	6.23	0.64	5.53	0.68	5.35	0.73	4.74	0.76	0.70	
Index Number			91.43		97.14		104.20		108.57	100.00	
			4		1		2		3		

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (10): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A_2b_2) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept	2.86	8.79	0.33	6.78	0.42	7.13	0.40	4.49	0.64	0.45	
Oct.	3.60	6.72	0.54	6.01	0.60	5.86	0.61	5.23	0.69	0.61	
Nov.	5.22	5.15	1.01	4.97	1.05	4.57	1.14	4.99	1.05	1.06	
Dec.	3.08	4.25	0.72	4.36	0.71	3.85	0.80	4.25	0.72	0.74	
Average	3.69	6.23	0.65	5.53	0.69	5.35	0.74	4.74	0.77	0.71	
Index Number			91.55		97.18		104.22		108.45	100.00	
			4		1		2		3		

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (11): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₂b₃) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both									
	Average (CU) in two seasons	Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
		mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	
Sept	2.85	8.79	0.32	6.78	0.42	7.13	0.40	4.49	0.63	0.44
Oct.	3.59	6.72	0.53	6.01	0.60	5.86	0.61	5.23	0.69	0.61
Nov.	5.22	5.15	1.01	4.97	1.05	4.57	1.14	4.99	1.05	1.06
Dec.	3.06	4.25	0.72	4.36	0.70	3.85	0.79	4.25	0.72	0.73
Average	3.68	6.23	0.65	5.53	0.69	5.35	0.74	4.74	0.77	0.71
Index Number			91.55		97.18		104.23		108.45	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (12): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₂b₄) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both									
	Average (CU) in two seasons	Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
		mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	
Sept	3.17	8.79	0.36	6.78	0.47	7.13	0.44	4.49	0.71	0.49
Oct.	3.7	6.72	0.55	6.01	0.62	5.86	0.63	5.23	0.71	0.63
Nov.	5.44	5.15	1.06	4.97	1.09	4.57	1.19	4.99	1.09	1.11
Dec.	3.31	4.25	0.78	4.36	0.76	3.85	0.86	4.25	0.78	0.79
Average	3.91	6.23	0.69	5.53	0.73	5.35	0.78	4.74	0.82	0.76
Index Number			90.79		96.5		102.63		107.89	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (13): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₃b₁) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both									
	Average (CU) in two seasons	Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
		mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	
Sept	2.77	8.79	0.32	6.78	0.41	7.13	0.39	4.49	0.62	0.43
Oct.	3.55	6.72	0.53	6.01	0.59	5.86	0.61	5.23	0.68	0.60
Nov.	5.16	5.15	1.00	4.97	1.04	4.57	1.13	4.99	1.03	1.05
Dec.	2.99	4.25	0.70	4.36	0.69	3.85	0.78	4.25	0.70	0.72
Average	3.62	6.23	0.64	5.53	0.68	5.35	0.73	4.74	0.76	0.70
Index Number			91.43		97.14		104.29		108.57	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

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Table (14): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₃b₂) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average (CU) in two seasons	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both								Average (kc)
		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		
		mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept.	2.86	8.79	0.33	6.78	0.42	7.13	0.40	4.49	0.64	0.45
Oct.	3.6	6.72	0.54	6.01	0.60	5.86	0.61	5.23	0.69	0.61
Nov.	5.22	5.15	1.01	4.97	1.05	4.57	1.14	4.99	1.05	1.06
Dec.	3.08	4.25	0.72	4.36	0.71	3.85	0.80	4.25	0.72	0.74
Average	3.69	6.23	0.65	5.53	0.69	5.35	0.74	4.74	0.77	0.71
Index Number			91.55		97.18		104.23		108.45	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (15): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₃b₃) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average (CU) in two seasons	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both								Average (kc)
		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		
		mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept.	2.86	8.79	0.33	6.78	0.42	7.13	0.40	4.49	0.64	0.45
Oct.	3.6	6.72	0.54	6.01	0.60	5.86	0.61	5.23	0.69	0.61
Nov.	5.22	5.15	1.01	4.97	1.05	4.57	1.14	4.99	1.05	1.06
Dec.	3.08	4.25	0.72	4.36	0.71	3.85	0.80	4.25	0.72	0.74
Average	3.69	6.23	0.65	5.53	0.69	5.35	0.74	4.74	0.77	0.71
Index Number			91.55		97.18		104.23		108.45	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (16): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment (A₃b₄) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average (CU) in two seasons	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both								Average (kc)
		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		
		mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept.	2.98	8.79	0.34	6.78	0.44	7.13	0.42	4.49	0.66	0.47
Oct.	3.69	6.72	0.55	6.01	0.61	5.86	0.63	5.23	0.71	0.62
Nov.	5.31	5.15	1.03	4.97	1.07	4.57	1.16	4.99	1.06	1.08
Dec.	3.21	4.25	0.76	4.36	0.74	3.85	0.83	4.25	0.76	0.77
Average	3.80	6.23	0.67	5.53	0.71	5.35	0.76	4.74	0.80	0.74
Index Number			90.54		0.96		102.70		108.11	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (17): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment (A_4b_1) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC		
Sept.	2.7	8.79	0.31	6.78	0.40	7.13	0.38	4.49	0.60	0.42	
Oct.	3.5	6.72	0.52	6.01	0.58	5.86	0.60	5.23	0.67	0.59	
Nov.	5.11	5.15	0.99	4.97	1.03	4.57	1.12	4.99	1.02	1.04	
Dec.	2.91	4.25	0.68	4.36	0.67	3.85	0.76	4.25	0.68	0.70	
Average	3.56	6.23	0.63	5.53	0.67	5.35	0.71	4.74	0.74	0.69	
Index Number			91.30		94.03		102.90		107.25	100.00	
			4		1		2		3		

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (18): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment (A_4b_2) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC		
Sept.	2.77	8.79	0.32	6.78	0.41	7.13	0.39	4.49	0.62	0.43	
Oct.	3.54	6.72	0.53	6.01	0.59	5.86	0.60	5.23	0.68	0.60	
Nov.	5.16	5.15	1.00	4.97	1.04	4.57	1.13	4.99	1.03	1.05	
Dec.	2.98	4.25	0.70	4.36	0.68	3.85	0.77	4.25	0.70	0.71	
Average	3.61	6.23	0.64	5.53	0.68	5.35	0.72	4.74	0.76	0.70	
Index Number			91.43		97.14		102.86		108.57	100.00	
			4		1		2		3		

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (19): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment (A_4b_3) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC		
Sept	2.51	8.79	0.29	6.78	0.37	7.13	0.35	4.49	0.56	0.39	
Oct.	3.37	6.72	0.50	6.01	0.56	5.86	0.58	5.23	0.64	0.57	
Nov.	5.25	5.15	1.02	4.97	1.06	4.57	1.15	4.99	1.05	1.07	
Dec.	2.72	4.25	0.64	4.36	0.62	3.85	0.71	4.25	0.64	0.65	
Average	3.46	6.23	0.61	5.53	0.65	5.35	0.70	4.74	0.72	0.67	
Index Number			91.04		97.01		104.48		107.46	100.00	
			4		1		2		3		

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

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Table (20): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₄b₄) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC		
Sept	2.92	8.79	0.33	6.78	0.43	7.13	0.41	4.49	0.65	0.46	
Oct.	3.65	6.72	0.54	6.01	0.61	5.86	0.62	5.23	0.70	0.62	
Nov.	5.27	5.15	1.02	4.97	1.06	4.57	1.15	4.99	1.06	1.07	
Dec.	3.13	4.25	0.74	4.36	0.72	3.85	0.81	4.25	0.74	0.75	
Average	3.74	6.23	0.66	5.53	0.70	5.35	0.75	4.74	0.79	0.72	
Index Number			91.67	97.22		104.17		109.72		100.00	
			4	1		2		3			

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (21): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₅b₁) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC		
Sept	2.6	8.79	0.30	6.78	0.38	7.13	0.36	4.49	0.58	0.41	
Oct.	3.43	6.72	0.51	6.01	0.57	5.86	0.59	5.23	0.66	0.58	
Nov.	5.05	5.15	0.98	4.97	1.02	4.57	1.11	4.99	1.01	1.03	
Dec.	2.8	4.25	0.66	4.36	0.64	3.85	0.73	4.25	0.66	0.67	
Average	3.47	6.23	0.61	5.53	0.65	5.35	0.70	4.74	0.73	0.67	
Index Number			87.14	97.01		104.48		108.96		100.00	
			4	1		2		3			

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (22): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment (A₅b₂) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both										
	Average (CU) in two seasons		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		Average (kc)
	mm/day	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC		
Sept	2.67	8.79	0.30	6.78	0.39	7.13	0.37	4.49	0.59	0.42	
Oct.	3.47	6.72	0.52	6.01	0.58	5.86	0.59	5.23	0.66	0.59	
Nov.	5.09	5.15	0.99	4.97	1.02	4.57	1.11	4.99	1.02	1.04	
Dec.	2.88	4.25	0.68	4.36	0.66	3.85	0.75	4.25	0.68	0.69	
Average	3.53	6.23	0.62	5.53	0.66	5.35	0.71	4.74	0.74	0.68	
Index Number			91.18	97.06		104.41		108.82		100.00	
			4	1		2		3			

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (23): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₅b₃) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average (CU) in two seasons	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both								Average (kc)
		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		
		mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept	2.5	8.79	0.28	6.78	0.37	7.13	0.35	4.49	0.56	0.39
Oct.	3.36	6.72	0.50	6.01	0.56	5.86	0.57	5.23	0.64	0.57
Nov.	4.98	5.15	0.97	4.97	1.00	4.57	1.09	4.99	1.00	1.01
Dec.	2.7	4.25	0.64	4.36	0.62	3.85	0.70	4.25	0.64	0.65
Average	3.39	6.23	0.60	5.53	0.64	5.35	0.68	4.74	0.71	0.66
Index Number			90.91		96.97		10.03		10.58	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

Table (24): The crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for treatment(A₅b₄) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

	Average (CU) in two seasons	Average potential evapotranspiration (mm/day) to both								Average (kc)
		Modified penman		Modified Blaney & Criddle		Radiation method		Pan method		
		mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	mm/day	KC	
Sept	2.81	8.79	0.32	6.78	0.41	7.13	0.39	4.49	0.63	0.44
Oct.	3.57	6.72	0.53	6.01	0.59	5.86	0.61	5.23	0.68	0.60
Nov.	5.19	5.15	1.01	4.97	1.04	4.57	1.14	4.99	1.04	1.06
Dec.	3.03	4.25	0.71	4.36	0.69	3.85	0.79	4.25	0.71	0.73
Average	3.65	6.23	0.64	5.53	0.69	5.35	0.73	4.74	0.77	0.71
Index Number			90.14		97.18		102.82		108.45	100.00
			4		1		2		3	

- (CU): Actual consumptive use

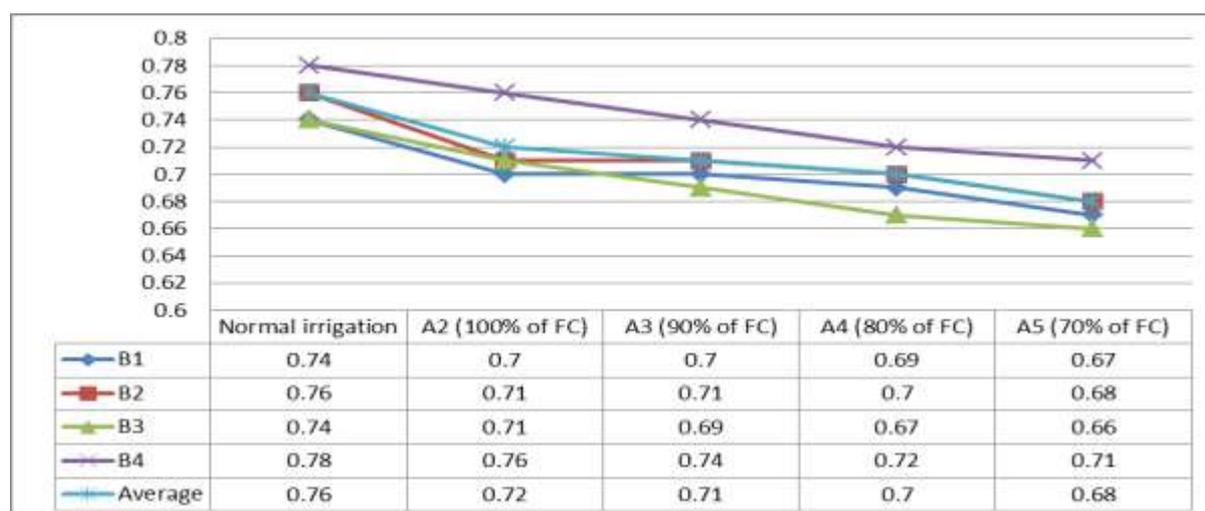
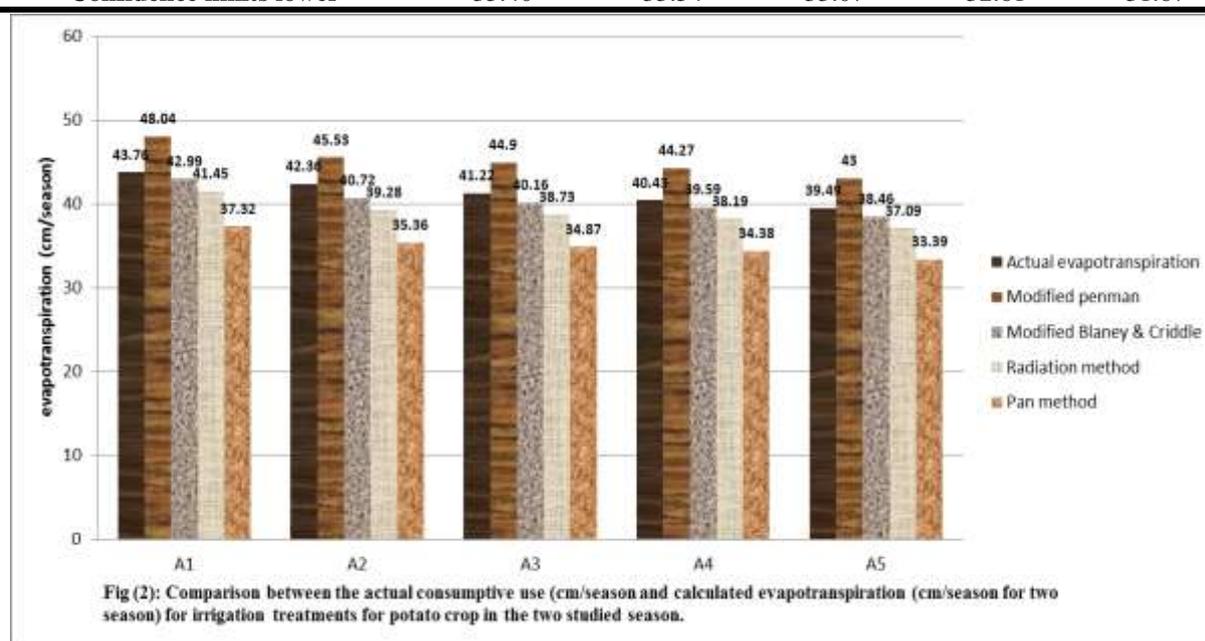


Fig (1): The average of crop coefficient ($K_c = ET_a / ET_p$) for potato crop in two studied seasons.

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Table (25): Comparison between the actual consumptive use (cm/season for two seasons) and calculated evapotranspiration (cm/season for two season) for different irrigation treatments for potato crop.

Average Actual consumptive use (cm/season) for two growing seasons					
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5
Seasonal Kc average	43.76	42.36	41.22	40.43	39.49
	0.79	0.72	0.71	0.70	0.68
Calculated evapotranspiration (Kc Average x ET _p)					
Modified penman	48.04	45.53	44.90	44.27	43.00
Modified Blaney & Criddle	42.99	40.72	40.16	39.59	38.46
Radiation method	41.45	39.28	38.73	38.19	37.09
Pan method	37.32	35.36	34.87	34.38	33.39
Average	42.45	40.22	39.67	39.11	37.99
Standard deviation	4.43	4.20	4.14	4.09	3.97
Confidence limits (95%) Upper	49.50	46.91	46.26	45.61	44.30
Confidence limits lower	35.40	33.54	33.07	32.61	31.67



CONCLUSION

The values of crop coefficient average (Kc average) by many empirical formulae were 0.76, 0.72, 0.71, 0.70 and 0.68 for A₁, A₂, A₃, A₄ and A₅ under all semi treatments b₁, b₂, b₃ and b₄, respectively. Radiation method and modified Blaney & Criddle were nearest to actual consumptive use. So, the author recommends using modified Blaney & Criddle or radiation method for calculating the potential evapotranspiration for potato plants which grow under El-Minia conditions and other corresponding conditions.

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حساب معامل المحصول لمحصول البطاطس تحت أساليب ري مختلفة
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 **معهد بحوث ادارة المياه - المركز القومى لبحوث المياه
 المستخلص

أجريت تجربتين حقليتين خلال المواسم الزراعيه لعامى 2012، 2013م بمحطة مقننات ري ملوى البحثيه التابعه لمعهد بحوث ادارة المياه - المركز القومى لبحوث المياه وذلك بهدف دراسه مدى إمكانيه زراعة محصول البطاطس تحت معاملات مختلفة من التسميد البوتاسي وأساليب ري مختلفة وتأثيرها على الإحتياجات المائيه الفعليه والإستهلاك المائى الفعلى ومعامل المحصول كما يهدف البحث أيضاً إلى تقييم ومقارنة طرق قياس الاستهلاك المائى النظرى المحسوب من المعادلات المناخية المختلفة وكذلك بالمقارنة بالإستهلاك المائى الفعلى لمحصول البطاطس تحت ظروف محافظة المنيا والمناطق الاخرى المماثله لها فى الظروف الجوية .
 وأوضحت النتائج المتحصل عليها بالآتى :

1. إعطت المعاملة الأولى (الرى التقليدى) أعلى قيم لمعدل الإستهلاك المائى الفعلى اليومى والشهرى والسنوى وذلك لإنخفاض قيمة الشد الرطوبى لهذه المعاملة.
2. أوضحت النتائج بأن متوسط قيم الإستهلاك المائى الفعلى تحت أساليب الري المختلفة كانت بمقدار 43.76، 42.36، 41.22، 40.43، 39.49 سم/الموسم للمعاملات A₁، A₂، A₃، A₄ and A₅ على التوالى تحت جميع المعاملات المنشقة المختلفة من التسميد البوتاسى.
3. كان معدل الاستهلاك المائى الفعلى واليومي والشهرى لجميع المعاملات المختلفة منخفضاً فى بداية موسم النمو ثم ازداد بعد ذلك إلى أن وصل أقصاه خلال شهر نوفمبر ثم انخفض هذا المعدل فى نهاية موسم النمو للنبات.
4. أدى استخدام التسميد البوتاسى إلى حدوث نقص طفيف فى الإستهلاك المائى الفعلى اليومى والشهرى والسنوى فى كلا موسمى الزراعة.
5. أعطت معادلة بنمان المعدلة وبلاني وكرديل المعدلة أعلى القيم من البخر - النتج بمعدل 63.24 سم/موسم خلال موسمى الدراسة بينما أعطت طريقة وعاء البخر أقل القيم من البخر - النتج بمعدل 49.11 سم/موسم.
6. كانت القيم المتحصل عليها من الإستهلاك المائى الفعلى أقل من القيم المحسوبة للإستهلاك المائى النظرى المحسوبة بوسط المعادلات المناخية المختلفة وذلك لوجود معادلات رياضية لتلك المعادلات.
7. كانت قيم الإستهلاك المائى النظرى المحسوب بواسطة معادله الإشعاع وبلاني وكرديل المعدلة أقرب القيم إلى المتوسط العام للمعادلات بانحراف سنوى -2.36% ، +1.24% ، بينما كانت القيم المحسوبة للإستهلاك المائى النظرى بواسطة معادلة بنمان المعدلة وحوض البخر أبعد القيم عن المتوسط العامل للمعادلات بانحراف سنوى قدرة +13.2 - و-12.09% على التوالى.
8. كما كان متوسط معامل المحصول المحسوبة بالمعادلات المناخية المختلفة بمقدار 0.76، 0.72، 0.71، 0.70، 0.68 للمعاملات A₁، A₂، A₃، A₄، A₅ تحت جميع المعاملات المختلفة من التسميد البوتاسى على التوالى.
9. كان القيم المتحصل عليها للإستهلاك النظرى المحسوب بواسطة معادلة بلاني وكرديل المعدلة و طريقة الإشعاع المعدلة أقرب القيم للإستهلاك الفعلى للمحصول بينما كانت القيم المتحصل عليها بواسطة معادلة بنمان المعدلة طريقة وعاء البخر أبعد القيم عن المتوسط العام للإستهلاك المائى الفعلى ومن ثم توصى النتائج بإمكانيه إستخدام معادلتى معادلة بلاني وكرديل المعدلة أو طريقة الإشعاع وذلك عند تقدير الإستهلاك المائى النظرى المحسوب لمحصول البطاطس تحت ظروف محافظة المنيا والمناطق الإخرى المماثلة لها فى الظروف الجوية.