

10 FARMING TIPS DROUGHT



- ✦ **Plan ahead.** Find out your crop's water usage and compare it to your predicted water budget to determine a realistic crop yield.
- ✦ **Consider new water-wise crops.** Crops such as cotton, sorghum, yellowhorn, and jujube are relatively tolerant of drought conditions.
- ✦ **Practice low-till/no-till farming.** Undisturbed soil retains moisture. Incorporate organic matter and use mulch to hold onto more water.
- ✦ **Salts can accumulate with less water.** Plant salt-tolerant crops. Correct plant placement for your irrigation type can help draw away excess salt.
- ✦ **Timing is critical.** Water between 7pm and 7am to reduce evaporation. Provide adequate water during critical irrigation periods (i.e., flowering).
- ✦ **Choose an early-maturing crop variety.** The advantage of increased yield with late-maturing varieties may be lost in a drought period.
- ✦ **Drip irrigation** delivers water more efficiently than flood or sprinkler, and can also reduce weeds and improve liquid fertilizer efficiency.
- ✦ **Check irrigation systems** for off-target watering. Perform regular maintenance on drip systems to maximize longevity and functionality.
- ✦ Protect crops during afternoon heat and reduce wilting or cavitation by installing **shade cloth or other shade structures.**
- ✦ To improve crop success, **provide adequate water to a smaller acreage** rather than spreading insufficient irrigation over a larger area.