Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration

A New Procedure For Estimating Reference Evapotranspiration In Arizona

Introduction

The Arizona Meteorological Network (AZMET) has provided daily values of reference evapotranspiration (ETo) for a number of southern Arizona locations for more than 15 years. ETo is a computed meteorological parameter that provides an estimate of environmental evaporative demand and serves as a critical input variable for most scientifically based irrigation scheduling systems. ETo is also used to estimate evaporation from water bodies and evapotranspiration (ET) from rain-fed ecosystems.

While there is general agreement among agronomists, irrigation engineers and meteorologists that ETo is a useful environmental parameter, there has been less agreement on how to compute ETo. And all too often the computational procedure for ETo varies from region to region and sometimes within a region. Use of multiple ETo computation procedures within a region can generate biases in ETo that result from the computation process, not any true differences in environmental evaporative demand. Figure 1 provides graphic evidence of this computational bias by presenting the total ETo for Tucson in 1996 as computed using the published ETo procedures for the public weather networks operating in Arizona (Brown, 1998), California (Snyder and Pruitt, 1985), and New Mexico (Sammis, 1996). It is important to note that the same meteorological data were used to generate the ETo data in Figure 1; only the computational procedures differed. These results provide clear evidence that lack of a standardized computational procedure for ETo can lead to confusion and perhaps serious mistakes when one is involved in activities such as irrigation scheduling, estimating consumptive use of vegetation, water rights litigation (especially across state lines), and development of crop coefficients (adjustment factors that convert ETo to crop ET).

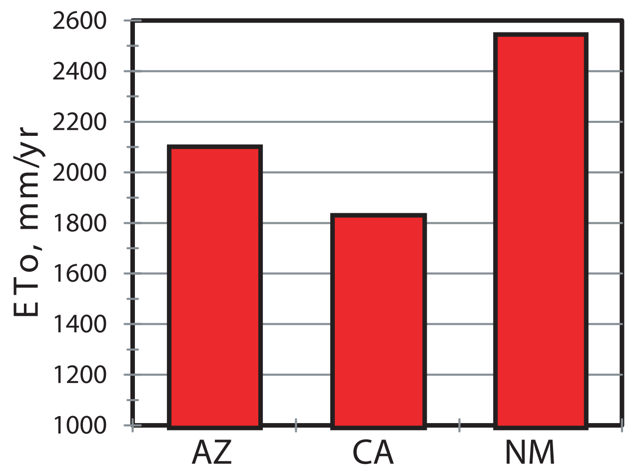

Figure 1. Reference ET (ETo) for Tucson for calendar year 1996 as computed using the published procedures for the public weather networks in Arizona, California, and New Mexico.

Over the past decade, scientists have recognized the problems and frustrations associated with non-standardized ETo computation and have formed national and international committees to address this issue. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) developed

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a special Task Committee (TC) in 1999 to develop a standardized procedure for computing ETo. The ASCE TC has issued its recommendations (Walter et al., 2004) which are to be published in 2005. AZMET participated in the ASCE TC and began generating ETo values using this ASCE Standardized ETo procedure in 2003. The purpose of this report is to first review the computation procedure recommended by the ASCE TC; second, provide specifics on the computation procedure AZMET will employ; and third, summarize how the new standardized ETo procedure and the original AZMET ETo (ETоa) procedure compare across months and locations.

Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration Definition

The ASCE TC defined reference evapotranspiration as "the ET rate from a uniform surface of dense actively growing vegetation having specified height and surface resistance (to transfer of water vapor), not short of soil water, and representing an expanse of at least 100 m of the same or similar vegetation." This definition leaves open the option of having more than one reference surface (differing height and surface resistance) and reflects the view of the TC that standardized computation procedures were necessary for two reference surfaces: 1) a short crop similar to clipped grass and 2) a tall crop similar to full-cover alfalfa. The recommended abbreviations for ETo computed for the short and tall crops using the standardized procedures are ETos and ETrs, respectively (see Table 1 for list of ET abbreviations used in this report).

The need to have procedures for two reference surfaces reflects the history of ET research in the U.S. Two crops — cool-season grass and alfalfa — have been used as reference surfaces for ET estimation for several decades. The TC recommendations allow users with a strong preference for one reference surface or another to continue using their preferred surface. An important reason for recommending two surfaces pertains to crop coefficients (Kcs) — the adjustment factors used to convert ETo to estimates of ET for a specific type of vegetation. Kcs will differ for the two reference surfaces since alfalfa typically uses more water than grass when both are grown under reference conditions. Over the past 30+ years, Kcs have been developed for use with ETo computed for both grass and alfalfa reference surfaces. The TC recommendation to allow for two reference surfaces allows local users to continue using the Kcs and reference surface they are most comfortable with.

ABBREVIATION	EXPLANATION
ET	Evapotranspiration
ETc	Evapotranspiration of a particular crop or vegetation type
ETo	Reference Evapotranspiration in general
ETos	Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration for Short Reference Crop
ETrs	Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration for Tall Reference Crop
ETsz	Standardized Reference Evapotranspiration in general
ETоa	Reference Evapotranspiration as computed by AZMET in past years

Table 1. Abbreviations related to evapotranspiration that are contained in this report.

Standardized Reference ET Equation

Generalized Form of Standardized Equation

The ASCE TC standardized procedure for computing reference evapotranspiration is based on the Penman-Monteith Equation and more specifically on simplifying the version of the Penman Monteith Equation recommended by ASCE (Jensen et al., 1990). The recommended general computation procedure is provided below:

$$ETsz = \frac{0.408\Delta(R_n - G) + \gamma \dfrac{C_n}{T+273} u_2 (e_s - e_a)}{\Delta + \gamma(1 + C_d u_2)} \quad (1)$$

Where:

ETsz = standardized reference crop evapotranspiration (mm d^{-1} or mm h^{-1})

Δ = slope of the saturation vapor pressure-temperature curve (kPa $^oC^{-1}$)

R_n = Calculated net radiation at the crop surface (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1} or MJ m^{-2} h^{-1})

G = Soil heat flux density at the soil surface (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1} or MJ m^{-2} h^{-1})

γ = psychrometer constant (kPa $^oC^{-1}$)

C_n = numerator constant that changes with reference type and calculation time step

T = mean daily air temperature measured at 1.5 to 2.5 m above ground level (^{o}C)

U_2 = mean daily wind speed wind speed measured at 2 m above ground level (m s^{-1})

e_s = saturation vapor pressure measured at 1.5 to 2.5 m above ground level (kPa)

e_a = mean actual vapor pressure measured at 1.5 to 2.5 m above ground level (kPa)

C_d = denominator constant that changes with reference type and calculation time step

Equation 1 represents a generalized equation that can, with appropriate use of constants, handle different reference surfaces; different computational time steps; and slight variation in the measurement height of certain meteorological measurements. Note that standardized reference ET when described in this generalized form is given the abbreviation ETsz.

Standardized Equation To Be Used By AZMET

AZMET will utilize the standardized procedure for a short reference crop computed using a daily computational time step. The appropriate equation for this version of the standardized procedure is provided below:

$$ETos = \frac{0.408\Delta R_n + \gamma \dfrac{900}{T+273} u_2 (e_s - e_a)}{\Delta + \gamma (1 + 0.34 u_2)} \qquad (2)$$

Where:

ETos = standardized reference crop evapotranspiration for a short crop in mm d^{-1}

Δ = slope of the saturation vapor pressure-temperature curve (kPa $^oC^{-1}$)

R_n = Calculated net radiation at the crop surface in MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}

γ = psychrometer constant (kPa $^oC^{-1}$)

T = mean daily air temperature measured at 1.5 m above ground level (^{o}C)

u_2 = mean daily wind speed measured at 2 m above ground level (m s^{-1})

e_s = saturation vapor pressure measured at 1.5 m above ground level (kPa)

e_a = mean actual vapor pressure measured at 1.5 m above ground level (kPa)

A comparison of Eqs. 1 and 2 reveal some significant differences. One notable difference is the change in abbreviation for reference ET. The ASCE task force recommended using the abbreviation ETos for short crop standardized reference ET. Another important difference among the two equations is that the numerator and denominator constants in Eq. 1 are set equal to 900 and 0.34, respectively which represent the appropriate constants for the short reference crop and daily computational time step. Finally, one will notice that Eq. 2 no longer contains the soil heat flux variable (G in Eq. 1). Soil heat flux is typically very small over a period of 24 hours (heat that flows into soil in day is lost back to the surface at night) and thus is set equal to zero in the standardized equation when the daily computation time step is used.

The reason AZMET chose to use reference ET computed for a short reference crop is to provide continuity with past AZMET ETo data. AZMET has used a 0.08-0.15 m tall cool season grass as its ET reference surface since the inception of the network in 1987.

The time step for ETsz computation was another factor addressed by the ASCE TC. Time step refers to the time interval over which the ETsz computation is made. The TC recommended standardized procedures for two computational time steps — hourly and daily. The daily computational time step has been used for many decades, in part because most older meteorological data sets consisted of daily summaries. The advent of automated weather stations in the late 1970s led to an increase in the number of hourly data sets that could be used to compute ETo. Past research suggests the ETo computation is more accurate when the computation time step is hourly as opposed to daily or longer (Tanner and Pelton, 1960, Van Bavel, 1966), particularly in regions where meteorological conditions vary in an asymmetric manner each day (e.g., coastal locations with fog or sea breeze; certain mountain areas subject to sudden changes in wind or cloudiness each day). One of the objectives of the TC was to recommend a standardized procedure where the computational time step did not greatly impact the resulting ETsz value. The TC did conduct an evaluation of the impact of time step on the resulting ETsz value (Itenfisu et al., 2000). The evaluation found that ETsz computed using the hourly and daily time step was generally within 2% across a large number of locations (including Arizona).

AZMET chose to use the daily time step computation model for the following reasons: 1) meteorological conditions in Arizona do not generally exhibit serious asymmetric tendencies over the course of a day; 2) daily

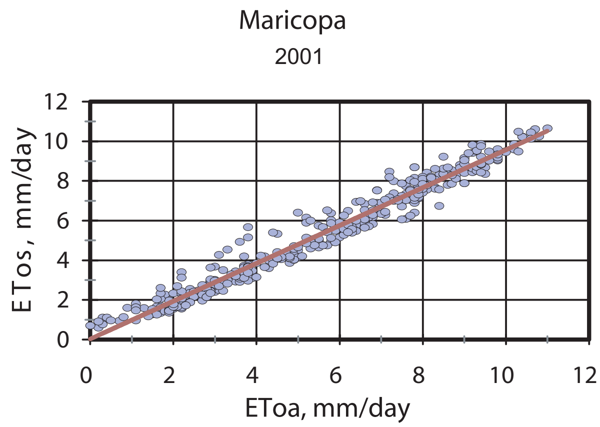

Figure 2. Reference evapotranspiration as computed using the ASCE standardized procedure (ETos) versus reference evapotranspiration computed using procedure employed by AZMET. The line represents the least squares regression line (ETos = 0.03 + 0.95 x ETo a; r^2 = 0.96).

meteorological data are easier to estimate than hourly data when data are missing due to instrument failure or station maintenance; and 3) AZMET questions the accuracy of nighttime net radiation (R_n)estimates required to estimate ETos on an hourly timescale.

Data Required To Compute ETos

Both meteorological and non-meteorological data are required for the computation of ETos. The required meteorological data include: 1) daily solar radiation (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}), 2) mean daily vapor pressure (kPa), 3) mean daily wind speed (m s^{-1}), and 4) maximum and minimum air temperature for the day (^{o}C). All of the required meteorological data are collected by AZMET weather stations. Required non-meteorological data consist of elevation above sea level and latitude for the locations providing the meteorological data (AZMET weather station locations).

The meteorological data required for computation of ETos must be converted into the specific variables required in Eq. 2. Multiple procedures are available for making these required conversions. The ASCE TC reviewed many of the recommended conversion procedures and made recommendations on the best procedures to use based on the kind and quality of available meteorological data. The specific procedures and/or equations employed by AZMET to generate these required variables are presented in the Appendix to this report

Comparison of Standardized Reference ET with Original AZMET ETo

A logical question for users of ETo data would be how does the new standardized procedure (ETos) compare with the original AZMET ETo (ETo a) data. To answer this question, AZMET computed daily ETos for the period 1 January 1998 through 31 December 2001 (4 years), then compared the monthly, seasonal, and annual totals of ETos against similar totals of ETo a for locations presently served by AZMET weather stations.

ETos and ETo a were highly correlated across all locations served by AZMET. The data presented in Figure 2 are representative of the general relationship between ETos and ETo a. While ETos and ETo a are highly correlated, values of ETos generally run lower than ETo a. This lower bias of ETos is clearly evident in Tables 2 and 3 that present monthly, seasonal, and annual totals of ETos and ETo a for all locations presently served by AZMET weather stations. Also included in Tables 2 and 3 are ratios of ETos to ETo a for the various time scales.

Annual totals of ETos were 3-17% lower than similar totals of ETo a depending on location (Table 3). The lowest ratios of ETos to ETo a occur where wind flow is generally low (e.g., Waddell, Phoenix Encanto, and Phoenix Greenway). The highest ratios occur at locations exhibiting fairly high wind speeds (e.g., Marana, Parker).

The monthly and seasonal ratios presented in Tables 2 and 3 reveal that the lower bias of ETos (relative to ETo a) is not constant over time. Higher ratios typically occur during windy months and months with higher dew point temperatures (e.g., summer monsoon months). Lower ratios commonly occur when dew point and wind flow are low.

Converting Past ETo a to ETos

Long time users of AZMET data may have databases and spreadsheets that contain values of ETo a generated in past years. Users interested in converting ETo a data into reliable estimates of ETos may use the ratios presented in Tables 2 & 3. The simple conversion process uses the following equation:

$$ETos = Ratio * ETo a \qquad (3)$$

Table 2. Mean monthly values of reference evapotranspiration for all AZMET station sites for the period 1998-2001 computed using the ASCE standardized (ETos) and original AZMET (EToa) computation procedures. Monthly ratios of ETos to EToa are provided in columns labeled "Ratio."

LOCATION	JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH			APRIL			MAY			JUNE		
	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio
Aguila	72.6	80.5	0.90	77.8	90.1	0.86	125.4	147.2	0.85	171.1	198.5	0.86	241.6	273.0	0.89	261.4	289.3	0.90
Buckeye	74.3	83.8	0.89	84.7	96.1	0.88	134.0	151.7	0.88	180.2	207.0	0.87	240.5	270.0	0.89	251.0	276.2	0.91
Bonita	69.8	79.0	0.88	82.8	94.2	0.88	126.3	146.6	0.86	167.5	197.2	0.85	222.8	256.6	0.87	228.1	247.6	0.92
Coolidge	73.5	78.4	0.94	82.2	90.4	0.91	124.6	140.4	0.89	174.5	197.5	0.88	247.4	269.4	0.92	253.7	271.7	0.93
Eloy	69.4	77.1	0.90	81.1	91.3	0.89	125.7	146.0	0.86	173.5	204.2	0.85	241.6	274.7	0.88	254.0	277.5	0.92
Harquahala	65.7	76.6	0.86	73.9	87.7	0.84	124.5	148.0	0.84	166.8	198.2	0.84	220.9	253.1	0.87	246.7	272.4	0.91
Litchfield Pk.	66.8	75.7	0.88	77.5	88.4	0.88	126.1	144.3	0.87	173.5	202.5	0.86	238.7	270.1	0.88	263.1	287.7	0.91
Maricopa	63.3	72.5	0.87	80.0	89.7	0.89	126.0	143.6	0.88	175.0	199.1	0.88	244.0	267.5	0.91	261.3	280.4	0.93
Marana	90.2	89.5	1.01	98.9	102.2	0.97	144.9	157.5	0.92	184.2	206.2	0.89	251.8	274.1	0.92	264.6	277.3	0.95
Mohave Val.	80.7	87.0	0.93	87.3	94.6	0.92	145.8	164.6	0.89	191.8	214.9	0.89	257.8	278.6	0.93	257.4	275.2	0.94
Paloma	72.9	79.6	0.92	84.8	94.9	0.89	131.1	149.5	0.88	173.5	200.0	0.87	234.4	259.8	0.90	255.8	276.2	0.93
Parker	72.5	78.4	0.93	80.9	90.1	0.90	134.7	153.2	0.88	192.1	211.4	0.91	263.8	280.9	0.94	281.5	288.9	0.97
Phoenix Encanto	54.5	65.6	0.83	67.5	80.7	0.84	111.8	133.6	0.84	153.6	185.3	0.83	209.9	247.0	0.85	228.2	262.3	0.87
Phoenix Greenway	51.1	69.8	0.73	65.4	83.5	0.78	108.6	134.3	0.81	149.7	182.8	0.82	205.3	245.3	0.84	226.0	261.4	0.86
Queen Ck.	61.7	66.0	0.93	74.8	81.9	0.91	117.9	131.0	0.90	159.9	182.3	0.88	214.9	240.3	0.89	227.0	249.1	0.91
Roll	64.5	80.5	0.80	76.9	92.4	0.83	128.4	153.6	0.84	174.8	204.8	0.85	222.5	251.6	0.88	234.2	258.4	0.91
Safford	74.8	80.8	0.93	92.4	100.8	0.92	139.4	156.8	0.89	187.0	211.8	0.88	250.8	274.1	0.92	252.7	264.5	0.96
Tucson	68.6	80.8	0.85	82.4	94.6	0.87	128.0	151.2	0.85	166.3	196.0	0.85	224.3	258.1	0.87	235.4	258.3	0.91
Waddell	54.0	76.2	0.71	67.3	86.2	0.78	111.4	136.8	0.81	156.1	192.3	0.81	217.8	262.6	0.83	236.4	276.2	0.86
Yuma Mesa	69.7	85.2	0.82	80.2	95.8	0.84	129.4	155.0	0.83	168.7	199.6	0.85	217.6	247.7	0.88	238.8	261.8	0.91
Yuma N. Gila	71.6	84.2	0.85	80.2	94.3	0.85	127.5	151.3	0.84	170.2	199.0	0.86	211.8	239.7	0.88	229.0	251.2	0.91
Yuma Valley	83.9	94.5	0.89	90.5	103.3	0.88	135.1	158.7	0.85	181.3	207.9	0.87	230.5	254.1	0.91	259.3	278.5	0.93

Table 2 continued. Mean monthly values of reference evapotranspiration for all AZMET station sites for the period 1998-2001 computed using the ASCE standardized (ETos) and original AZMET (EToa) computation procedures. Monthly ratios of ETos to EToa are provided in columns labeled "Ratio."

LOCATION	JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio
Aguila	249.1	259.6	0.96	218.3	222.3	0.98	184.0	199.0	0.92	138.3	153.7	0.90	90.5	100.6	0.90	75.5	82.3	0.92
Buckeye	236.8	245.5	0.96	225.3	226.9	0.99	188.6	200.6	0.94	137.9	153.6	0.90	86.3	97.8	0.88	70.9	79.3	0.89
Bonita	192.3	194.1	0.99	179.3	185.2	0.97	166.7	180.4	0.92	125.9	140.8	0.89	82.3	94.2	0.87	66.3	77.1	0.86
Coolidge	217.7	219.4	0.99	198.3	200.8	0.99	166.0	172.9	0.96	128.0	138.5	0.92	83.5	89.2	0.94	71.9	75.4	0.95
Eloy	236.1	237.6	0.99	219.0	221.7	0.99	177.3	192.1	0.92	130.3	147.1	0.89	78.5	93.6	0.84	65.3	73.0	0.89
Harquahala	249.6	260.8	0.96	231.2	234.9	0.98	182.7	199.1	0.92	127.6	148.5	0.86	77.7	93.4	0.83	68.6	78.6	0.87
Litchfield Pk.	246.8	257.5	0.96	219.2	228.3	0.96	172.5	192.0	0.90	121.4	138.1	0.88	74.7	86.8	0.86	60.9	69.0	0.88
Maricopa	247.6	249.7	0.99	223.6	225.1	0.99	182.8	192.9	0.95	128.1	141.9	0.90	73.6	84.4	0.87	58.9	66.1	0.89
Marana	220.2	216.1	1.02	209.6	204.4	1.03	193.4	194.1	1.00	152.9	155.2	0.99	107.9	107.5	1.00	82.6	83.7	0.99
Mohave Val.	233.5	244.3	0.96	211.0	217.2	0.97	169.0	184.8	0.91	131.0	144.1	0.91	89.0	97.6	0.91	91.8	99.8	0.92
Paloma	241.4	247.8	0.97	213.4	213.9	1.00	174.4	183.4	0.95	129.5	142.7	0.91	81.4	90.8	0.90	69.4	72.9	0.95
Parker	276.1	275.7	1.00	224.0	224.4	1.00	194.2	202.2	0.96	144.8	156.7	0.92	88.4	97.7	0.90	75.3	82.2	0.92
Phoenix Encato	223.8	243.3	0.92	207.0	222.7	0.93	161.3	185.7	0.87	108.7	131.2	0.83	63.3	79.8	0.79	49.9	61.7	0.81
Phoenix Greenway	221.2	240.3	0.92	206.2	222.1	0.93	158.1	185.7	0.85	106.8	137.0	0.78	60.3	85.6	0.70	47.0	66.4	0.71
Queen Ck.	219.7	222.5	0.99	205.8	207.9	0.99	169.2	179.5	0.94	117.9	131.1	0.90	72.5	82.2	0.88	57.3	63.2	0.91
Roll	234.1	246.0	0.95	222.2	230.5	0.96	180.8	193.5	0.93	129.9	143.3	0.91	74.8	84.3	0.89	63.8	77.5	0.82
Safford	205.5	203.4	1.01	178.2	177.7	1.00	161.8	170.0	0.95	125.7	136.0	0.92	80.3	88.5	0.91	68.9	72.4	0.95
Tucson	201.1	205.2	0.98	192.1	197.9	0.97	168.8	183.8	0.92	123.6	143.1	0.86	77.6	92.0	0.84	64.1	77.3	0.83
Waddell	225.6	250.7	0.90	199.0	220.2	0.90	156.2	188.8	0.83	107.5	140.2	0.77	61.9	88.8	0.70	48.8	71.0	0.69
Yuma Mesa	241.0	252.4	0.95	217.6	224.6	0.97	174.9	191.3	0.91	129.3	150.2	0.86	83.4	98.5	0.85	75.1	90.5	0.83
Yuma N. Gila	249.3	254.1	0.98	233.6	233.6	1.00	182.9	193.5	0.95	133.6	148.3	0.90	82.7	92.8	0.89	74.6	85.5	0.87
Yuma Valley	266.8	276.3	0.97	240.2	241.8	0.99	203.7	212.8	0.96	148.8	162.9	0.91	96.1	104.1	0.92	89.0	97.9	0.91

Table 3. Seasonal and annual means of reference evapotranspiration for all active AZMET monitoring sites for the period 1998-2001 as computed using the ASCE standardized (ETos) and original AZMET (EToa) procedures. Ratios of ETos to EToa are provided in columns labeled "Ratio."

LOCATION	WINTER (Dec. - Feb.)			SPRING (Mar. - May)			SUMMER (Jun. - Aug.)			FALL (Sep. - Nov.)			ANNUAL		
	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio	ETos (mm)	EToa (mm)	Ratio
Aguila	225.9	252.9	0.89	538.1	618.7	0.87	728.8	771.2	0.94	412.8	453.3	0.91	1905.7	2095.9	0.91
Buckeye	229.9	259.2	0.89	554.7	628.7	0.88	713.1	748.6	0.95	412.8	452.0	0.91	1910.5	2088.2	0.91
Bonita	218.9	250.3	0.87	516.6	600.4	0.86	599.7	626.9	0.96	374.9	415.4	0.90	1710.2	1892.9	0.90
Coolidge	227.6	244.2	0.93	546.5	607.3	0.90	669.7	691.9	0.97	377.5	400.6	0.94	1821.3	1944.0	0.94
Eloy	215.8	241.4	0.89	540.8	626.4	0.86	709.1	735.3	0.96	386.1	432.8	0.89	1851.9	2035.7	0.91
Harquahala	208.2	242.9	0.86	512.2	599.3	0.85	727.5	768.1	0.95	388.0	441.0	0.88	1835.9	2051.2	0.90
Litchfield Pk.	205.2	233.1	0.88	538.3	616.9	0.87	729.1	773.5	0.94	368.6	416.9	0.88	1841.3	2040.4	0.90
Maricopa	202.2	228.3	0.89	545.0	610.2	0.89	732.5	755.2	0.97	384.5	419.2	0.92	1864.2	2012.8	0.93
Marana	271.7	275.4	0.99	580.9	637.8	0.91	694.4	697.8	1.00	454.2	456.8	0.99	2001.2	2067.6	0.97
Mohave Val.	259.8	281.4	0.92	595.4	658.1	0.90	701.9	736.7	0.95	389.0	426.5	0.91	1946.2	2102.4	0.93
Paloma	227.1	247.4	0.92	539.0	609.3	0.88	710.6	737.9	0.96	385.3	416.9	0.92	1862.0	2011.3	0.93
Parker	228.7	250.7	0.91	590.6	645.5	0.91	781.6	789.0	0.99	427.4	456.6	0.94	2028.4	2141.6	0.95
Phoenix Encanto	171.9	208.0	0.83	475.3	565.9	0.84	659.0	728.3	0.90	333.3	396.7	0.84	1639.6	1898.7	0.86
Phoenix Greenway	163.5	219.7	0.74	463.6	562.4	0.82	653.4	723.8	0.90	325.2	408.3	0.80	1605.6	1914.1	0.84
Queen Ck.	193.8	211.1	0.92	492.7	553.6	0.89	652.5	679.5	0.96	359.6	392.8	0.92	1698.5	1836.7	0.92
Roll	205.2	250.4	0.82	525.7	610.0	0.86	690.5	734.9	0.94	385.5	421.1	0.92	1806.9	2016.3	0.90
Safford	236.1	254.0	0.93	577.2	642.7	0.90	636.4	645.6	0.99	367.8	394.5	0.93	1817.6	1936.6	0.94
Tucson	215.1	252.7	0.85	518.6	605.3	0.86	628.6	661.4	0.95	370.0	418.9	0.88	1732.2	1938.2	0.89
Waddell	170.1	233.4	0.73	485.3	591.7	0.82	661.0	747.1	0.88	325.6	417.8	0.78	1642.0	1989.7	0.83
Yuma Mesa	225.0	271.5	0.83	515.7	602.3	0.86	697.4	738.8	0.94	387.6	440.0	0.88	1825.7	2052.4	0.89
Yuma N. Gila	226.4	264.0	0.86	509.5	590.0	0.86	711.9	738.9	0.96	399.2	434.6	0.92	1847.0	2027.4	0.91
Yuma Valley	263.4	295.7	0.89	546.9	620.7	0.88	766.3	796.6	0.96	448.6	479.8	0.93	2025.2	2192.5	0.92

where **Ratio** represents the appropriate annual, seasonal or monthly ratio from Tables 2 and 3. Annual ratios should be used only to adjust annual totals of ETоa. Monthly ratios provide the best means of converting short term data sets (e.g., daily, weekly or monthly totals of ETоa). *Users wishing to obtain actual computed values of ETos for past years should contact AZMET. As part of the move to adopt ETos, AZMET will generate ETos for its entire database which extends back to 1987 at some locations.*

Crop Coefficients and ETos

Crop coefficients (Kcs) are used to convert ETo data into estimates of crop evapotranspiration (ETc). The simple conversion procedure is as follows:

$$ETc = Kc * ETo \quad (4)$$

It is important to note that Kcs need to be matched to the ETo procedure in order to obtain reliable estimates of ETc from Eq. 4. To help clarify this point, suppose one has a turf Kc of 0.75 that is appropriate for use with AZMET ETo (ETоa). To obtain an estimate of turf water use in Tucson for May one would multiply the Kc (0.75) times the May ETоa value for Tucson (258.1 mm from Table 2):

$$ETc = Kc * ETоa$$

$$ETc = 0.75 * 258.1 \text{ mm}$$

$$ETc = 193.6 \text{ mm } (7.62'')$$

If, however, this same Kc is erroneously applied to values of ETos, the same May turf water use estimate in Tucson would be:

$$ETc = Kc * ETos$$

$$ETc = 0.75 * 224.3 \text{ mm}$$

$$ETc = 168.2 \text{ mm } (6.62'')$$

or 25.4 mm (1.0”) less than the correct value. It is clear from this example that failure to match Kcs with ETo procedure can lead to significant errors when estimating water use from vegetation.

Very few Kcs have been validated for use with ETos in Arizona with the notable exception of turfgrass (Brown and Kopec, 2000). While a number of research studies are presently underway (University of Arizona and USDA-ARS) that should provide validated Kcs for a number of Arizona crops in the near future, individuals interested in applying Kcs to ETos must either use published Kcs developed in another location, or adjust existing AZMET Kcs. A good place to locate Kcs for use with ETos is the publication entitled *Crop Evapotranspiration: Guidelines for computing crop water requirements* which is listed in the Reference section of this report.

Adjusting AZMET Kcs is a simple process that requires the use of the ratio data in Tables 2 and 3:

$$Kc_{os} = Kc_{az} / \text{Ratio} \quad (5)$$

where Kc_{os} and Kc_{az} are the crop coefficient values appropriate for use with ETos and ETоa, respectively; and **Ratio** is the ratio of ETos to ETоa provided in Tables 2 and 3. In the previous example pertaining to turfgrass water use for Tucson in May, one would correct the Kc_{az} value of 0.75 by dividing by the May ratio presented in Table 2 (0.87):

$$Kc_{os} = 0.75 / 0.87 = 0.86$$

Seasonal ratios of ETos to ETоa are provided in Table 3 to assist with adjusting Kc_{az} for row crops. For example, AZMET has recommended using a Kc of 1.12 for full cover cotton when using ETоa. The process of adjusting this Kc for use with ETos at Maricopa would proceed as follows:

$$Kc_{os} = 1.12 / 0.97 = 1.15$$

The value of 0.97 is the summer ratio for Maricopa (see Table 3).

On a practical note it is important to recognize that existing Kc_{az} values will require only minor adjustments (if any) when used during the summer months. Larger adjustments will be required in winter where the ratios of ETos to ETоa are generally much less than 1.0.

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Appendix

The procedures and equations used to compute the variables presented in Equation 2 are described in this Appendix. The variables are presented in the order they are encountered in Eq. 2.

Δ: Slope of Saturation Vapor Pressure vs. Temperature Relationship

The slope of the saturation vapor pressure versus temperature relationship, Δ (kPa $^oC^{-1}$), is computed using:

$$\Delta = 2503 \exp((17.27T)/(T + 237.3))/(T + 237.3)^2 \qquad (A1)$$

where T is the mean temperature for the day (^oC).

Rn: Net Radiation

Net radiation is the net amount of radiant energy available at the surface for evaporating water. Rn includes both short and long wave radiation and is computed using:

$$Rn = Rns - Rnl \qquad (A2)$$

where Rns = net shortwave radiation (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}) defined as positive in the downward direction (toward earth) and Rnl = net longwave radiation (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}) defined as positive in the upward direction (toward sky).

Net shortwave radiation (Rns) is computed as the difference between incoming and reflected shortwave radiation:

$$Rns = Rs - \alpha Rs = (1 - \alpha)Rs \qquad (A3)$$

where α = albedo or canopy reflection coefficient which is fixed at 0.23 and Rs = incoming solar radiation (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}).

Net longwave radiation (Rnl) is the difference between upward longwave radiation (Rlu) and downward longwave radiation from the sky (Rld):

$$Rnl = Rlu - Rld \qquad (A4)$$

The daily value of Rnl is computed using:

$$Rnl=\sigma[(T_K^4max+T_K^4min)/2]*(0.34-0.14 \sqrt{ea})[1.35(Rs/Rso) - 0.35] \qquad (A5)$$

where Rnl is net long-wave radiation in MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}, σ is the Stefan-Boltzman constant [= 4.901 x 10^{-9} MJ K^{-4} m^{-2} d^{-1}], T_K^4max is the maximum absolute temperature for the day (K), T_K^4min is the minimum absolute temperatures for the day (K), ea is the actual vapor pressure (kPa), Rs is solar radiation (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}), and Rso is calculated clear-sky solar radiation (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}). The ratio Rs/Rso indicates the relative level of cloudiness must be limited to 0.3 < Rs/Rso < 1.0. Rs/Rso values <0.30 are set = 0.30; Rs/Rso values > 1.0 are set = 1.0.

Clear sky solar radiation (Rso) is computed using:

$$Rso = (0.75 + 2 * 10^{-5} z)Ra \qquad (A6)$$

where z is the elevation above sea level (m) and Ra is extraterrestrial radiation (MJ m^{-2} d^{-1}).

Extraterrestrial radiation is computed from earth-sun geometry using:

$$Ra = (24/\pi)Gsc\ dr * [\omega s \sin(\varphi) \sin(\delta) + \cos(\varphi) \cos(\delta) \sin(\omega s)] \qquad (A7)$$

where Gsc is the solar constant [= 4.92 MJ m^{-2} h^{-1}], dr is relative distance factor (between the earth and sun), ωs is sunset hour angle (radians), φ is the latitude (radians), and δ solar declination (radians).

The relative distance factor is computed using:

$$dr = 1 + 0.033\cos(2\pi J/365) \qquad (A8)$$

where J is the day of the year (1 = 1 January; 365 = 31 December).

The solar declination angle is computed using:

$$\delta = 0.409\sin((2\pi J/365) - 1.39) \qquad (A9)$$

The sunset angle is computed using:

$$\omega s = \arccos[-\tan(\varphi) \tan(\delta)] \qquad (A10)$$

γ: Psychrometer Constant

The psychrometer constant, γ (kPa $^{o}C^{-1}$), is computed using:

$$\gamma = 0.000665\ P \qquad (A11)$$

where P is the atmospheric pressure at the weather station site. Atmospheric pressure (kPa) is computed from the elevation of the weather station site:

$$P = 101.3\ ((293 - 0.0065\ z)\ /\ 293)^{5.26} \qquad (A12)$$

where z is the elevation of the weather station above mean sea level (m).

T: Mean Air Temperature

Mean air temperature (^{o}C) is calculated as the mean of the daily maximum and daily minimum air temperature:

$$T = (Tmax + Tmin)/2 \qquad (A13)$$

where Tmax and Tmin are the maximum and minimum air temperatures (°C) as obtained from the weather station data logger.

u_2:Wind Speed

The standardized equation requires the mean daily wind speed measured at 2 m above ground level (agl). Because AZMET measures wind speed at 3 m agl, wind speed is adjusted to an equivalent value at 2 m agl using the following:

$$u_2 = u_3 (4.87/\ln(67.8\, zw - 5.42) \qquad \text{(A14)}$$

where u_3 is the wind speed measured at 3 m agl and zw is the height of the wind speed measurement (3 m).

e_s: Saturation Vapor Pressure

Saturation vapor pressure is computed using:

$$es = (es(Tmax) + es(Tmin)) / 2 \qquad \text{(A15)}$$

where es(Tmax) and es(Tmin) are the saturation vapor pressures (kPa) computed using the maximum and minimum air temperatures, respectively. Saturation vapor pressure is computed using the following:

$$es = 0.6108 \exp((17.27Tex) / (Tex + 237.3)) \qquad \text{(A16)}$$

where Tex is either Tmax or Tmin (°C) .

ea: Actual Vapor Pressure

The mean actual vapor pressure for the day is computed by the weather station datalogger using simultaneous measurements of relative humidity (RH; %) and air temperature (Ta; °C) using:

$$ea = (RH/100) [0.6108 \exp((17.27Ta)/(Ta + 237.3))] \qquad \text{(A17)}$$

Values of ea are computed by the datalogger every 10 s and averaged for the day.