

ET and Precipitation during the 120 day corn growing season in 2001

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Cumulative precipitation and corn evapotranspiration for the 120-day corn growing period at Colby, Kansas from May 15, 2001 through September 11, 2001 was 6.95 inches and 26.28 inches, respectively. The long term average (1972-02) precipitation and corn evapotranspiration for the period is 12.1 inches and 23.0 inches, respectively.

The decreased precipitation and increased evapotranspiration essentially means there was an approximately 8.35 inches greater irrigation requirement in the year 2001. Timing of precipitation and evapotranspiration periods can increase or decrease the need to schedule irrigation to some extent

The severity of the high ET and low precipitation in 2001 was compounded by nearly identical conditions in 2000. Deep soil water reserves that usually help to buffer plant water stress were reduced in the previous year and have not been replenished during the fallow and overwinter periods.

