

# **NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)**

**TYPE: Experimental Forecast Product**

**DATE: June 1, 2011**

**Experimental Product – Experimental Forecast of Reference  
Evapotranspiration for Short Canopy Vegetation**

**Feedback Period: June 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011**

## **Part I - Mission Connection**

- A. Product Description** – The experimental reference evapotranspiration forecast will be displayed as a graphic of gridded data within the WFOs county warning area. The forecast is the expected amount of daily reference evapotranspiration in hundredths of an inch for the next 7 days and a total reference of evapotranspiration for the 7 day period. The forecast is calculated by standardizing on the tall canopy vegetation (50 cm full cover alfalfa) algorithm. This product will be issued three times a day around 5 am, 12 pm, and 4 pm local time. This experimental product is a significant enhancement to the original 7–Day Evapotranspiration Forecast (official) by standardizing on one methodology and algorithm to generate field reference evapotranspiration. It also includes a weekly total, and updates the graphical display from the previous evapotranspiration product.
- B. Purpose** – The purpose of this experimental product is to provide our customers and partners with enhanced detail on the amount of reference evapotranspiration expected for the next seven days and a weekly total, for making better water usage decisions.
- C. Audience** – Water management, agricultural, academia, media and the general public.
- D. Presentation Format** – All displays will occur via a web page interface. The forecast will be generated using a cron that triggers at 5 am, 12 pm, and 4 pm local time.

[http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fgf/climate/farm\\_info.php](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fgf/climate/farm_info.php)

**E. Feedback Method** – Feedback is encouraged and may be sent through an online survey at

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=etf>

For assistance, please contact:

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## **Part II – Technical Description**

- A. **Format and Science Basis** – This product is being developed to provide a daily reference evapotranspiration forecast to our customers for the next 7 days and a weekly total, using a common methodology for daily reference evapotranspiration equations for a short canopy. An algorithm is utilized, drawing upon existing NDFD gridded forecasts, to generate the forecast output.
  
- B. **Product Availability** – The graphics will be available 24/7. They will be updated three times a day around 5 am, 12 pm, and 4 pm local time.
  
- C. **Additional Information** – None.