

Published: 2009

## **Irrigation technology ready to cut water use**

**Australian irrigators and water professionals are being encouraged to adopt new irrigation efficiency technology that will reduce water use and improve production.**



Credit: ScienceImage/Greg Rinder

The technology, developed by the Irrigation Futures CRC, includes soil water samplers, smart water meters, drip performance calculators and irrigation scheduling systems.

The remote and automated tools will help irrigators and farmers to apply water more effectively in a wide range of enterprises such as dairies, vineyards, horticulture, parks and gardens.

CEO Ian Atkinson said the Irrigation Futures CRC is currently seeking agents and distributors to bring the technologies to the market, and has set up a Professional Irrigation Services Network (PrISN), which will offer individuals, consultants and organisations access to its irrigation research, software, calculators, websites and scheduling tools.

The tools include a satellite/SMS irrigation scheduling service, a calculator to assess the performance of drip systems, a smart water meter to identify faults and prevent overwatering, a soil wetting detector to assess if too much or too little water is applied, and a 'ready reckoner' to evaluate different evaporation reduction options such as covers and monolayers on dams.

From **ECOS** online <http://www.ecosmagazine.com/?paper=EC151p8a>