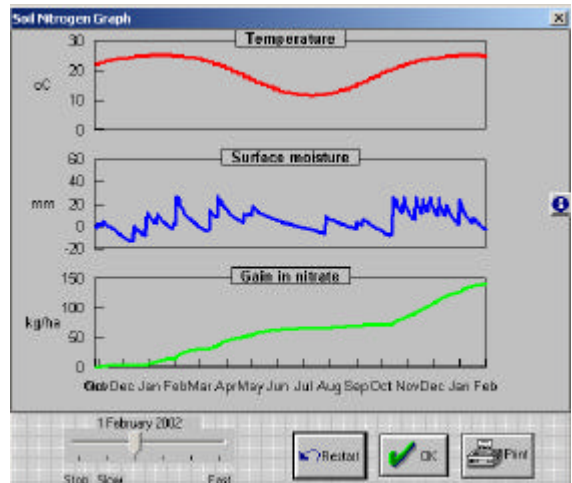


# HowWet?

Authors: Freebairn, D.M., Hamilton, A.H., Cox, P.G., and Holzworth, D. (1994)

## What is HowWet?

HowWet? is a Windows based program which uses farm rainfall records to estimate how much plant available water has been stored in the soil and the amount of organic nitrogen that has been converted to an available form during a fallow (non-crop period). HowWet? tracks daily evaporation, runoff and soil moisture using estimates of weather conditions and rainfall input by the user. Accumulation of available nitrogen in the soil is calculated based on soil moisture, temperature, soil type and age of cultivation.



## Why HowWet?

A key to making best use of rainfall is to adjust crop and soil management in response to changing conditions. This means knowing what the moisture and nitrogen status of soil is **now!** HowWet? provides an easy to follow approach to learning about what is happening to soil water and soil nitrate, and also calculates yield expectations and nitrogen fertilizer needs.

## Where does it fit in?

HowWet? was designed with two purposes in mind;

- a) to provide a simple method of using rainfall records to estimate storage of rainfall in the soil and
- b) to demystify models by providing a graphic and visible demonstration of water balance accounting.

While HowWet? can be used as a stand alone tool, we believe it is better introduced to users in a broader setting of workshops aimed at an improved understanding of soil water processes.

## Typical applications

Decisions which may be altered by knowing more about soil water and nitrogen.

- ☂ How long to fallow
- ☂ How much of the available area should be planted
- ☂ When and what to plant next
- ☂ Rates of fertilizer needed
- ☂ The sowing rate or row width of some crops
- ☂ Financial planning through better estimates of future yields

## For further information

To download a copy of HowWet? and for further information go to <http://www.apsru.gov.au/apsru/Documents/products.htm>

HowWet? Was revised in 2004.