

TABLE 12

Single (time-averaged) crop coefficients, K<sub>c</sub>, and mean maximum plant heights for non stressed, well-managed crops in subhumid climates (RH<sub>min</sub> ≈ 45%, u<sub>2</sub> ≈ 2 m/s) for use with the FAO Penman-Monteith ET<sub>0</sub>.

Crop	K <sub>c</sub> ini <sup>1</sup>	K <sub>c</sub> mid	K <sub>c</sub> end	Maximum Crop Height (h) (m)
<b>a. Small Vegetables</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>0.95</b>	
Broccoli		1.05	0.95	0.3
Brussel Sprouts		1.05	0.95	0.4
Cabbage		1.05	0.95	0.4
Carrots		1.05	0.95	0.3
Cauliflower		1.05	0.95	0.4
Celery		1.05	1.00	0.6
Garlic		1.00	0.70	0.3
Lettuce		1.00	0.95	0.3
Onions - dry		1.05	0.75	0.4
- green		1.00	1.00	0.3
- seed		1.05	0.80	0.5
Spinach		1.00	0.95	0.3
Radish		0.90	0.85	0.3
<b>b. Vegetables – Solanum Family (Solanaceae)</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>0.80</b>	
Egg Plant		1.05	0.90	0.8
Sweet Peppers (bell)		1.05 <sup>2</sup>	0.90	0.7
Tomato		1.15 <sup>2</sup>	0.70-0.90	0.6
<b>c. Vegetables – Cucumber Family (Cucurbitaceae)</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.80</b>	
Cantaloupe	0.5	0.85	0.60	0.3
Cucumber – Fresh Market	0.6	1.00 <sup>2</sup>	0.75	0.3
– Machine harvest	0.5	1.00	0.90	0.3
Pumpkin, Winter Squash		1.00	0.80	0.4
Squash, Zucchini		0.95	0.75	0.3
Sweet Melons		1.05	0.75	0.4
Watermelon	0.4	1.00	0.75	0.4
<b>d. Roots and Tubers</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>0.95</b>	
Beets, table		1.05	0.95	0.4
Cassava – year 1	0.3	0.80 <sup>3</sup>	0.30	1.0
– year 2	0.3	1.10	0.50	1.5
Parsnip	0.5	1.05	0.95	0.4
Potato		1.15	0.75 <sup>4</sup>	0.6
Sweet Potato		1.15	0.65	0.4
Turnip (and Rutabaga)		1.10	0.95	0.6
Sugar Beet	0.35	1.20	0.70 <sup>5</sup>	0.5

continued...

<sup>1</sup> These are general values for K<sub>c</sub> ini under typical irrigation management and soil wetting. For frequent wettings such as with high frequency sprinkle irrigation or daily rainfall, these values may increase substantially and may approach 1.0 to 1.2. K<sub>c</sub> ini is a function of wetting interval and potential evaporation rate during the initial and development periods and is more accurately estimated using Figures 29 and 30, or Equation 7-3 in Annex 7, or using the dual K<sub>cb</sub> ini + K<sub>e</sub>.

<sup>2</sup> Beans, Peas, Legumes, Tomatoes, Peppers and Cucumbers are sometimes grown on stalks reaching 1.5 to 2 meters in height. In such cases, increased K<sub>c</sub> values need to be taken. For green beans, peppers and cucumbers, 1.15 can be taken, and for tomatoes, dry beans and peas, 1.20. Under these conditions h should be increased also.

<sup>3</sup> The midseason values for cassava assume non-stressed conditions during or following the rainy season. The K<sub>c</sub> end values account for dormancy during the dry season.

<sup>4</sup> The K<sub>c</sub> end value for potatoes is about 0.40 for long season potatoes with vine kill.

<sup>5</sup> This K<sub>c</sub> end value is for no irrigation during the last month of the growing season. The K<sub>c</sub> end value for sugar beets is higher, up to 1.0, when irrigation or significant rain occurs during the last month.

Table 12 continued

Crop	$K_c$ ini <sup>1</sup>	$K_c$ mid	$K_c$ end	Maximum Crop Height (h) (m)
<b>e. Legumes (<i>Leguminosae</i>)</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>0.55</b>	
Beans, green	0.5	1.05 <sup>2</sup>	0.90	0.4
Beans, dry and Pulses	0.4	1.15 <sup>2</sup>	0.35	0.4
Chick pea		1.00	0.35	0.4
Fababean (broad bean) – Fresh	0.5	1.15 <sup>2</sup>	1.10	0.8
– Dry/Seed	0.5	1.15 <sup>2</sup>	0.30	0.8
Grabanzo	0.4	1.15	0.35	0.8
Green Gram and Cowpeas		1.05	0.60-0.35 <sup>6</sup>	0.4
Groundnut (Peanut)		1.15	0.60	0.4
Lentil		1.10	0.30	0.5
Peas – Fresh	0.5	1.15 <sup>2</sup>	1.10	0.5
– Dry/Seed		1.15	0.30	0.5
Soybeans		1.15	0.50	0.5-1.0
<b>f. Perennial Vegetables (with winter dormancy and initially bare or mulched soil)</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.80</b>	
Artichokes	0.5	1.00	0.95	0.7
Asparagus	0.5	0.95 <sup>7</sup>	0.30	0.2-0.8
Mint	0.60	1.15	1.10	0.6-0.8
Strawberries	0.40	0.85	0.75	0.2
<b>g. Fibre Crops</b>	<b>0.35</b>			
Cotton		1.15-1.20	0.70-0.50	1.2-1.5
Flax		1.10	0.25	1.2
Sisal <sup>8</sup>		0.4-0.7	0.4-0.7	1.5
<b>h. Oil Crops</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>0.35</b>	
Castorbean ( <i>Ricinus</i> )		1.15	0.55	0.3
Rapeseed, Canola		1.0-1.15 <sup>9</sup>	0.35	0.6
Safflower		1.0-1.15 <sup>9</sup>	0.25	0.8
Sesame		1.10	0.25	1.0
Sunflower		1.0-1.15 <sup>9</sup>	0.35	2.0
<b>i. Cereals</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>0.4</b>	
Barley		1.15	0.25	1
Oats		1.15	0.25	1
Spring Wheat		1.15	0.25-0.4 <sup>10</sup>	1
Winter Wheat - with frozen soils	0.4	1.15	0.25-0.4 <sup>10</sup>	1
– with non-frozen soils	0.7	1.15	0.25-0.4 <sup>10</sup>	
Maize, Field (grain) ( <i>field corn</i> )		1.20	0.60, 0.35 <sup>11</sup>	2
Maize, Sweet ( <i>sweet corn</i> )		1.15	1.05 <sup>12</sup>	1.5
Millet		1.00	0.30	1.5
Sorghum – grain		1.00-1.10	0.55	1-2
– sweet		1.20	1.05	2-4
Rice	1.05	1.20	0.90-0.60	1

continued...

- <sup>6</sup> The first  $K_c$  end is for harvested fresh. The second value is for harvested dry.
- <sup>7</sup> The  $K_c$  for asparagus usually remains at  $K_c$  ini during harvest of the spears, due to sparse ground cover. The  $K_c$  mid value is for following regrowth of plant vegetation following termination of harvest of spears.
- <sup>8</sup>  $K_c$  for sisal depends on the planting density and water management (e.g., intentional moisture stress).
- <sup>9</sup> The lower values are for rainfed crops having less dense plant populations.
- <sup>10</sup> The higher value is for hand-harvested crops.
- <sup>11</sup> The first  $K_c$  end value is for harvest at high grain moisture. The second  $K_c$  end value is for harvest after complete field drying of the grain (to about 18% moisture, wet mass basis).
- <sup>12</sup> If harvested fresh for human consumption. Use  $K_c$  end for field maize if the sweet maize is allowed to mature and dry in the field.



Table 12 continued

Crop	$K_{c\text{ ini}}^1$	$K_{c\text{ mid}}$	$K_{c\text{ end}}$	Maximum Crop Height (h) (m)
<b>j. Forages</b>				
Alfalfa Hay – averaged cutting effects	0.40	0.95 <sup>13</sup>	0.90	0.7
– individual cutting periods	0.40 <sup>14</sup>	1.20 <sup>14</sup>	1.15 <sup>14</sup>	0.7
– for seed	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.7
Bermuda hay – averaged cutting effects	0.55	1.00 <sup>13</sup>	0.85	0.35
– Spring crop for seed	0.35	0.90	0.65	0.4
Clover hay, Berseem – averaged cutting effects	0.40	0.90 <sup>13</sup>	0.85	0.6
– individual cutting periods	0.40 <sup>14</sup>	1.15 <sup>14</sup>	1.10 <sup>14</sup>	0.6
Rye Grass hay – averaged cutting effects	0.95	1.05	1.00	0.3
Sudan Grass hay (annual) – averaged cutting effects	0.50	0.90 <sup>14</sup>	0.85	1.2
– individual cutting periods	0.50 <sup>14</sup>	1.15 <sup>14</sup>	1.10 <sup>14</sup>	1.2
Grazing Pasture - Rotated Grazing	0.40	0.85-1.05	0.85	0.15-0.30
– Extensive Grazing	0.30	0.75	0.75	0.10
Turf grass - cool season <sup>15</sup>	0.90	0.95	0.95	0.10
– warm season <sup>15</sup>	0.80	0.85	0.85	0.10
<b>k. Sugar Cane</b>	0.40	1.25	0.75	3
<b>l. Tropical Fruits and Trees</b>				
Banana – 1 <sup>st</sup> year	0.50	1.10	1.00	3
– 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	1.00	1.20	1.10	4
Cacao	1.00	1.05	1.05	3
Coffee – bare ground cover	0.90	0.95	0.95	2-3
– with weeds	1.05	1.10	1.10	2-3
Date Palms	0.90	0.95	0.95	8
Palm Trees	0.95	1.00	1.00	8
Pineapple <sup>16</sup> – bare soil	0.50	0.30	0.30	0.6-1.2
– with grass cover	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.6-1.2
Rubber Trees	0.95	1.00	1.00	10
Tea – non-shaded	0.95	1.00	1.00	1.5
– shaded <sup>17</sup>	1.10	1.15	1.15	2
<b>m. Grapes and Berries</b>				
Berries (bushes)	0.30	1.05	0.50	1.5
Grapes – Table or Raisin	0.30	0.85	0.45	2
– Wine	0.30	0.70	0.45	1.5-2
Hops	0.3	1.05	0.85	5

continued...

<sup>13</sup> This  $K_{c\text{ mid}}$  coefficient for hay crops is an overall average  $K_{c\text{ mid}}$  coefficient that averages  $K_c$  for both before and following cuttings. It is applied to the period following the first development period until the beginning of the last late season period of the growing season.

<sup>14</sup> These  $K_c$  coefficients for hay crops represent immediately following cutting; at full cover; and immediately before cutting, respectively. The growing season is described as a series of individual cutting periods (Figure 35).

<sup>15</sup> Cool season grass varieties include dense stands of bluegrass, ryegrass, and fescue. Warm season varieties include bermuda grass and St. Augustine grass. The 0.95 values for cool season grass represent a 0.06 to 0.08 m mowing height under general turf conditions. Where careful water management is practiced and rapid growth is not required,  $K_c$ 's for turf can be reduced by 0.10.

<sup>16</sup> The pineapple plant has very low transpiration because it closes its stomates during the day and opens them during the night. Therefore, the majority of  $ET_c$  from pineapple is evaporation from the soil. The  $K_{c\text{ mid}} < K_{c\text{ ini}}$  since  $K_{c\text{ mid}}$  occurs during full ground cover so that soil evaporation is less. Values given assume that 50% of the ground surface is covered by black plastic mulch and that irrigation is by sprinkler. For drip irrigation beneath the plastic mulch,  $K_c$ 's given can be reduced by 0.10.

<sup>17</sup> Includes the water requirements of the shade trees.

Table 12 continued

Crop	$K_c$ ini <sup>1</sup>	$K_c$ mid	$K_c$ end	Maximum Crop Height (h) (m)
<b>n. Fruit Trees</b>				
Almonds, no ground cover	0.40	0.90	0.65 <sup>18</sup>	5
Apples, Cherries, Pears <sup>19</sup>				
- no ground cover, killing frost	0.45	0.95	0.70 <sup>18</sup>	4
- no ground cover, no frosts	0.60	0.95	0.75 <sup>18</sup>	4
- active ground cover, killing frost	0.50	1.20	0.95 <sup>18</sup>	4
- active ground cover, no frosts	0.80	1.20	0.85 <sup>18</sup>	4
Apricots, Peaches, Stone Fruit <sup>19, 20</sup>				
- no ground cover, killing frost	0.45	0.90	0.65 <sup>18</sup>	3
- no ground cover, no frosts	0.55	0.90	0.65 <sup>18</sup>	3
- active ground cover, killing frost	0.50	1.15	0.90 <sup>18</sup>	3
- active ground cover, no frosts	0.80	1.15	0.85 <sup>18</sup>	3
Avocado, no ground cover	0.60	0.85	0.75	3
Citrus, no ground cover <sup>21</sup>				
- 70% canopy	0.70	0.65	0.70	4
- 50% canopy	0.65	0.60	0.65	3
- 20% canopy	0.50	0.45	0.55	2
Citrus, with active ground cover or weeds <sup>22</sup>				
- 70% canopy	0.75	0.70	0.75	4
- 50% canopy	0.80	0.80	0.80	3
- 20% canopy	0.85	0.85	0.85	2
Conifer Trees <sup>23</sup>	1.00	1.00	1.00	10
Kiwi	0.40	1.05	1.05	3
Olives (40 to 60% ground coverage by canopy) <sup>24</sup>	0.65	0.70	0.70	3-5
Pistachios, no ground cover	0.40	1.10	0.45	3-5
Walnut Orchard <sup>19</sup>	0.50	1.10	0.65 <sup>18</sup>	4-5

continued...

<sup>18</sup> These  $K_c$  end values represent  $K_c$  prior to leaf drop. After leaf drop,  $K_c$  end  $\approx$  0.20 for bare, dry soil or dead ground cover and  $K_c$  end  $\approx$  0.50 to 0.80 for actively growing ground cover (consult Chapter 11).

<sup>19</sup> Refer to Eq. 94, 97 or 98 and footnotes 21 and 22 for estimating  $K_c$  for immature stands.

<sup>20</sup> Stone fruit category applies to peaches, apricots, pears, plums and pecans.

<sup>21</sup> These  $K_c$  values can be calculated from Eq. 98 for  $K_{c \text{ min}} = 0.15$  and  $K_{c \text{ full}} = 0.75$ , 0.70 and 0.75 for the initial, mid season and end of season periods, and  $f_{c \text{ eff}} = f_c$  where  $f_c$  = fraction of ground covered by tree canopy (e.g., the sun is presumed to be directly overhead). The values listed correspond with those in Doorenbos and Pruitt (1977) and with more recent measurements. The midseason value is lower than initial and ending values due to the effects of stomatal closure during periods of peak ET. For humid and subhumid climates where there is less stomatal control by citrus, values for  $K_{c \text{ ini}}$ ,  $K_{c \text{ mid}}$  and  $K_{c \text{ end}}$  can be increased by 0.1 - 0.2, following Rogers et al. (1983).

<sup>22</sup> These  $K_c$  values can be calculated as  $K_c = f_c K_{c \text{ ngc}} + (1 - f_c) K_{c \text{ cover}}$  where  $K_{c \text{ ngc}}$  is the  $K_c$  of citrus with no active ground cover (calculated as in footnote 21),  $K_{c \text{ cover}}$  is the  $K_c$  for the active ground cover (0.95), and  $f_c$  is defined in footnote 21. The values listed correspond with those in Doorenbos and Pruitt (1977) and with more recent measurements. Alternatively,  $K_c$  for citrus with active ground cover can be estimated directly from Eq. 98 by setting  $K_{c \text{ min}} = K_{c \text{ cover}}$ . For humid and subhumid climates where there is less stomatal control by citrus, values for  $K_{c \text{ ini}}$ ,  $K_{c \text{ mid}}$  and  $K_{c \text{ end}}$  can be increased by 0.1 - 0.2, following Rogers et al. (1983).

For non-active or only moderately active ground cover (active indicates green and growing ground cover with LAI > about 2 to 3),  $K_c$  should be weighted between  $K_c$  for no ground cover and  $K_c$  for active ground cover, with the weighting based on the "greenness" and approximate leaf area of the ground cover.

<sup>23</sup> Conifers exhibit substantial stomatal control due to reduced aerodynamic resistance. The  $K_c$  can easily reduce below the values presented, which represent well-watered conditions for large forests.



Table 12 continued

Crop	K <sub>c</sub> ini <sup>1</sup>	K <sub>c</sub> mid	K <sub>c</sub> end	Maximum Crop Height (h) (m)
<b>o. Wetlands – temperate climate</b>				
Cattails, Bulrushes, killing frost	0.30	1.20	0.30	2
Cattails, Bulrushes, no frost	0.60	1.20	0.60	2
Short Veg., no frost	1.05	1.10	1.10	0.3
Reed Swamp, standing water	1.00	1.20	1.00	1-3
Reed Swamp, moist soil	0.90	1.20	0.70	1-3
<b>p. Special</b>				
Open Water, < 2 m depth or in subhumid climates or tropics		1.05	1.05	
Open Water, > 5 m depth, clear of turbidity, temperate climate		0.65 <sup>24</sup>	1.25 <sup>25</sup>	

<sup>24</sup> These coefficients represent about 40 to 60% ground cover. Refer to Eq. 98 and footnotes 21 and 22 for estimating K<sub>c</sub> for immature stands. In Spain, Pastor and Orgaz (1994) have found the following monthly K<sub>c</sub>'s for olive orchards having 60% ground cover: 0.50, 0.50, 0.65, 0.60, 0.55, 0.50, 0.45, 0.45, 0.55, 0.60, 0.65, 0.50 for months January through December. These coefficients can be invoked by using K<sub>c</sub> ini = 0.65, K<sub>c</sub> mid = 0.45, and K<sub>c</sub> end = 0.65, with stage lengths = 30, 90, 60 and 90 days, respectively for initial, development, midseason and late season periods, and using K<sub>c</sub> during the winter ("off season") in December to February = 0.50.

<sup>25</sup> These K<sub>c</sub>'s are for deep water in temperate latitudes where large temperature changes in the water body occur during the year, and initial and peak period evaporation is low as radiation energy is absorbed into the deep water body. During fall and winter periods (K<sub>c</sub> end), heat is released from the water body that increases the evaporation above that for grass. Therefore, K<sub>c</sub> mid corresponds to the period when the water body is gaining thermal energy and K<sub>c</sub> end when releasing thermal energy. These K<sub>c</sub>'s should be used with caution.

**Primary sources:** K<sub>c</sub> ini: Doorenbos and Kassam (1979)  
K<sub>c</sub> mid and K<sub>c</sub> end: Doorenbos and Pruitt (1977); Pruitt (1986); Wright (1981, 1982), Snyder et al., (1989)

The values for K<sub>c</sub> mid and K<sub>c</sub> end in Table 12 represent those for a sub-humid climate with an average daytime minimum relative humidity (RH<sub>min</sub>) of about 45% and with calm to moderate wind speeds averaging 2 m/s. For more humid or arid conditions, or for more or less windy conditions, the K<sub>c</sub> coefficients for the mid-season and end of late season stage should be modified as described in this chapter.

The values for K<sub>c</sub> in Table 12 are values for non-stressed crops cultivated under excellent agronomic and water management conditions and achieving maximum crop yield (standard conditions). Where stand density, height or leaf area are less than that attained under such conditions, the value for K<sub>c</sub> mid and, for most crops, for K<sub>c</sub> end will need to be modified (Part C, Chapters 8, 9 and 10).

### Crop coefficient for the initial stage (K<sub>c</sub> ini)

#### Calculation procedure

The values for K<sub>c</sub> ini in Table 12 are only approximations and should only be used for estimating ET<sub>c</sub> during preliminary or planning studies. For several group types only one value