



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | California Institute for Water Resources

Developing research-based solutions to water-related challenges

Our Mission

The mission of the California Institute for Water Resources is to integrate California's research, extension, and education programs to develop research-based solutions to water resource challenges. We do this by facilitating collaborative research and outreach on water issues across California's academic institutions and with international, federal, state, regional, nonprofit, and campus communities.

"As California faces its worst drought in decades, water supply and quality for agricultural, urban, and environmental systems has become one of our biggest challenges. UC's California Institute for Water Resources is vital to integrating California's research, extension, and education programs to help mitigate the current problem and develop practical long-term solutions."

Secretary Karen Ross, California Dept. of Food & Agriculture
Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency

Research and Outreach Projects

Each year, we support new projects on a range of timely topics. A few are described below. Please visit our website for more information. We leverage federal investment to focus attention on the most critical water issues in the state.

Improving forage crop water productivity through innovative irrigation management

Improving crop water productivity is imperative. This project is comparing irrigation strategies for limited water to inform and improve water management strategies. *Investigator: Jeffrey Mitchell, UC Ag and Natural Resources.*

ciwr.ucanr.edu | [@ucanrwater](https://twitter.com/ucanrwater)

Water quality and alfalfa yield in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta

Delta farming is challenged by soil salinity, which can stress crops and reduce yields. To prevent harmful accumulation of salts, soil must be leached periodically. This study is aimed at establishing the leaching fraction for alfalfa in the Delta. *Investigator: Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, UC Ag and Natural Resources.*



The Confluence: Our Blog

Our blog is focused on California water issues. Follow us:

ucanr.edu/blogs/confluence. A sample of the topics we cover is below.

All the water we can get – managed groundwater recharge in California

How best to capture and store water for many is a big question in California. One approach with a lot of potential that has received little attention so far in California, is managed aquifer recharge...





Drought Response and Resources from the University of California

In the midst of historic drought, California’s academic institutions are a big resource. UC researchers are offering everything from near-term management advice to growers to innovative work on a vast array of issues from drought resistant crops to climate change.

For up-to-the-minute resources and expertise, please visit us at ucanr.edu/drought and follow us on Twitter [@ucanrwater](https://twitter.com/ucanrwater).

Drought Tipsheets for Growers

As the California drought continues, up-to-date water-management strategies are even more critical. To help growers and ranchers make the best use of the water they have, this series of new and updated drought fact sheets has been developed by UC scientists and supported by the California Department of Water Resources.

Many peer-reviewed drought tips are available, with more on the ways, including:

- Drought strategies for alfalfa
- Drought management for almonds
- Reclaiming saline, sodic, & saline-sodic soils



Explore the series: ucanr.edu/drought-tips

Insights: Online Water & Drought Series

Our online seminar series, supported in part by the California Department of Water Resources, brings timely, relevant expertise on water and drought from around UC and beyond.

Topics are arranged into subcategories ranging from agriculture to landscaping. Talks cover everything from groundwater to rangelands and drip irrigation. New presentations being added continually.



Explore the series: ucanr.edu/insights

Proven Solutions to Drought Stress

In January, water and drought experts from the U.S., Israel, and Australia gathered for a stimulating workshop on diverse drought management strategies from arid environments.

This workshop was the result of a partnership among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, California Institute for Water Resources, and Israel Ministry of Agriculture.

Explore the series: ucanr.edu/droughtstress