

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF TABLES	xxxiii
LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xxxiv
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Problem	1
1.2 Background (Historical perspective)	2
1.3 Objectives of the project	2
1.4 Approach	4
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MODEL	6
2.1 Crop growth model	6
2.2 FAO model	7
2.3 Required input parameters	9
3. DATA COLLECTION	10
3.1 Ideal data set for model validation	10
3.2 Literature search	11
3.3 Personal contacts	13
4. FIELD TRIALS	15

4.1	Roodeplaat vegetables trial	15
4.1.1	Experimental set-up	15
4.1.2	Field measurements	16
4.1.3	SWB parameter determination: Example with vegetables	18
4.1.4	FAO model parameter determination: Example with vegetables	25
4.2	Hatfield peach trial	29
4.2.1	Experimental set-up	29
4.2.2	Field measurements	30
4.2.3	FAO model parameter determination for peach trees	31
5.	MODEL SIMULATIONS	34
5.1	Agronomic crops	38
5.1.1	Maize	38
5.1.2	Peanuts	51
5.1.3	Peas (dry)	56
5.1.4	Potato	61
5.1.5	Soybean	66
5.1.6	Sugarcane	76
5.1.7	Sunflower	79
5.1.8	Tobacco	88
5.1.9	Wheat	91
5.2	Vegetable crops	101
5.2.1	Beans (bush)	101
5.2.2	Beans (runner)	106

5.2.3	Beetroot	109
5.2.4	Cabbage	112
5.2.5	Carrots	116
5.2.6	Eggplant	119
5.2.7	Lettuce	122
5.2.8	Marrow	125
5.2.9	Onions	130
5.2.10	Pepper (chilli)	133
5.2.11	Pepper (green)	136
5.2.12	Pumpkin	139
5.2.13	Squash	144
5.2.14	Sweet corn	149
5.2.15	Swisschard	158
5.2.16	Tomato	161
5.3	Tree crops	168
5.3.1	Apple	168
5.3.2	Citrus	179
5.3.3	Peach	183
6.	SWB FEATURES	187
6.1	User-friendly interface	187
6.2	Special features	191
6.2.1	ETo calculator	191
6.2.2	Neutron probe scheduler	192

6.2.3	Tensiometer scheduler	194
6.2.4	Gravimetric scheduler	195
6.2.5	Field capacity and permanent wilting point calculator	196
6.2.6	Update simulation	196
6.2.7	Recommendations	197
6.2.8	Crop parameter database	200
6.2.9	Address database	201
6.2.10	Import weather data	202
7.	TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIONS	203
8.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	206
8.1	Discussion of results	206
8.2	Needs for further research	208
	REFERENCES	210
	APPENDIX A: THEORETICAL OVERVIEW OF SWB	217
1.	Weather unit	217
2.	Soil unit	224
3.	Crop unit	232
4.	FAO model	240
	APPENDIX B: SPECIFIC CROP GROWTH PARAMETERS AND FAO CROP FACTORS	244