

## EFFECT OF THE PREDICTED CLIMATE CHANGES ON THE WATER NEEDS OF CAULIFLOWER CULTIVATED IN THE CENTRAL POLAND

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**Abstract.** The aim of the study was to estimate the water needs of early cultivars of cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *botrytis* L.). The calculations, based on the expected changes of air temperature, covered the forecasted thirty-years period, considered from 2021 to 2050. The research include the region of Bydgoszcz located in the central Poland. The forecasted mean monthly values of temperature in the region of central Poland, in the years 2021-2050, according to the climate change scenario for Poland (SRES: A1B), were used in the estimations. The water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars grown on three types of soil that diversified in terms of the water capacity (light soil, medium soil, heavy soil), were considered using two methods: Klatta's method and Press's method. The cauliflower water needs in the growing period, assumed from April to July, were calculated for each year during the considered thirty-years (2021-2050). As the reference period, the thirty-years interval from 1981 to 2010 was applied. According to the expected changes of climate conditions, the results of study indicate that during the forecasted period (2021-2050), in the central Poland, the water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars will increase by about 6 %. Comparing to the reference period, considered from 1981 to 2010, the water needs of cauliflower early cultivars grown on the medium soil will increase in the forecasted years in the range from 304 to 321 mm. On the light (sandy) soil, the water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars, calculated by the Klatta's and Press's methods, in the forecasted period will increase from 349 to 369 mm and from 364 to 385 mm, respectively. While on the heavy (concise) soil, the water needs of cauliflower early cultivars in the forecasted years will increase from 258 to 273 mm and from 243 to 257 mm, according to the Klatta's and Press's method, respectively. During the growing period, the highest water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars were estimated in June: 85-90 mm on heavy soil, 107 mm on medium soil and 123-129 mm on light soil. In the years 2021-2050, in July, should be expected the highest increase of cauliflower early cultivars water requirements (by about 14 %).

**Keywords:** *Brassica oleracea* L. var. *botrytis* L., cultivar, soil, temperature, water requirements.

### Introduction

The analysis of observed climate changes, forecasted for the coming years, indicates a significant increase in the risk of horticultural and agricultural crop production. Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) defined four narrative storylines, labelled A1, A2, B1 and B2, describing different influences of climate change, including population growth and socio-economic development. According to the A2 scenario, at the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the global temperature will increase about 4 °C. In Poland, as expected, the temperature will raise in the range of 2-4 °C. At the same time, in most of the climate change scenarios for Poland, no increase in the amount of precipitation is expected [1]. Consequently, the increase in air temperature with no changes in the amount of rainfall, may lead to the excessive drying of the soil during the growing season, what will result in the use of irrigation treatments. The observed unfavourable effects of climate changes should be a contribution to the rising importance of the irrigation techniques development in Polish agriculture and horticulture production [2;3].

Early cultivars of cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *botrytis* L.) belongs to the plants with very high water requirements [4-8]. It is estimated that the water needs of cauliflower, depending on the date of cultivation, range from 250 to 340 mm of water during the growing season [7;9;10]. Due to the high water requirements, the plants of cauliflower should be grown on the soil with high water capacity [7]. During the cultivation of cauliflower on the light soil, satisfactory yields can only be achieved by using of the irrigation treatments [7;8;11].

The aim of present research was to estimate the water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars during the growing period, assumed from April to July, in the thirty-years interval considered from 2021 to 2050, in the central Poland (in the area of Bydgoszcz). The calculation based on the forecasted climate changes according to the scenario for Poland (SRES: A1B). The central Poland is a region, where the risk of precipitation shortage during the growing season is particularly high [12-18].

## Materials and methods

In the research applied, according to the climate change scenario for Poland (SRES: A1B), the forecasted mean monthly values of air temperature in the central Poland (the region of Bydgoszcz) in the years 2021-2050 [19]. The water needs of cauliflower early cultivars (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *botrytis* L.) were considered using two estimation methods, such as Klatta's method and Press's method described in the paper [10].

The plants of cauliflower were grown on the three types of soil that diversified in terms of the water capacity, including light (sandy) soil, medium soil and heavy (concise) soil [10;20;21]. The water requirements of cauliflower cultivated in the growing period, assumed from April to July, was calculated for each year of the forecasted thirty-years period, considered from 2021 to 2050. As the reference period the thirty-years interval from 1981 to 2010 was applied.

## Results and discussion

There were no differences between two applied calculation methods used to estimate the water needs of cauliflower early cultivars grown on the medium soil (Table 1). The water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars during the growing period, assumed from April to July, ranged from 269 to 345 mm in the reference period (1981-2010), whereas in the forecasted years, considered from 2021-2050, varied between 256 and 377 mm.

Table 1  
Water needs of the cauliflower early cultivars grown on the medium soils

Months	Minimum, mm		Maximum, mm		Median, mm		Standard deviation
	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method
1981-2010							
April	33	33	65	65	48	48	6.4
May	51	51	90	90	71	71	7.7
June	90	90	118	118	101	101	6.3
July	66	66	104	104	83	83	9.4
April-July	269	269	345	345	305	305	18.3
2021-2050							
April	28	28	79	79	49	49	10.8
May	48	48	101	101	70	70	13.0
June	87	87	127	127	107	107	10.5
July	74	74	109	109	93	93	8.5
April-July	256	256	377	377	321	321	27.1

In the reference period, during the growing season, the water needs of cauliflower early cultivars grown on the light soil ranged from 310 to 397 mm, according to the estimation by the Klatta's method and from 323 to 414 mm, when the calculation by the Press's method was performed (Table 2). In the forecasted period, the water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars were between 295 and 434 mm and between 308 and 452 mm, according to the Klatta's and Press's method, respectively.

During the reference years considered from 1981 to 2010, in the period April-July, the water needs of cauliflower early cultivars grown on the heavy soil ranged between 229 and 293 mm using the Klatta's method and between 216 and 276 mm according to the Press's method (Table 3).

In the forecasted thirty-years period from 2021 to 2050, the water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars varied from 218 to 320 mm and from 205 to 302 mm, calculating by the Klatta's and Press's method, respectively.

Table 2  
Water needs of the cauliflower early cultivars grown on the light soil

Months	Minimum, mm		Maximum, mm		Median, mm		Standard deviation
	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method
1981-2010							
April	38	40	74	78	55	58	7.4
May	59	61	104	109	82	85	8.9
June	103	108	136	142	116	121	7.2
July	76	80	120	125	95	99	10.9
April-July	310	323	397	414	351	367	21.1
2021-2050							
April	32	34	91	95	57	59	12.4
May	56	58	116	121	80	84	14.9
June	101	105	146	153	123	129	12.1
July	85	89	125	131	108	112	9.8
April-July	295	308	434	452	369	385	31.1

Table 3  
Water needs of the cauliflower early cultivars grown on the heavy soil

Months	Minimum, mm		Maximum, mm		Median, mm		Standard deviation
	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method	Press method	Klatt method
1981-2010							
April	28	27	55	52	41	38	5.4
May	43	41	77	72	60	57	6.7
June	76	72	101	95	86	81	5.3
July	56	53	89	84	70	66	8.0
April-July	229	216	293	276	260	244	15.6
2021-2050							
April	24	22	67	63	42	40	9.1
May	41	39	86	81	59	56	11.0
June	74	70	108	102	91	86	8.9
July	63	59	93	87	79	75	7.2
April-July	218	205	320	302	273	257	23.0

The variation coefficient of cauliflower early cultivars water needs during the growing period, assumed from April to July, was much higher in the forecasted years 2021-2050 (8.4 %) than in the reference period, considered from 1981 to 2010 (6 %) (Table 4). The monthly variability of cauliflower early cultivars water requirements calculated in April, May and June was also higher in the forecasted years than in the reference period. On the other hand, in July, the variability of cauliflower early cultivars water needs was higher in the reference period (11.4 %) comparing the forecasted thirty-years (9.1 %). Summarizing, the highest variability of cauliflower early cultivars water requirements, both in the reference as well as forecasted period, was calculated in April and the lowest was estimated in June.

Table 4  
Variation coefficient (%) of the cauliflower early cultivars water needs in the growing period

Years	Months				
	April	May	June	July	April-July
1981-2010	13.0	10.9	6.3	11.4	6.0
2021-2050	21.9	18.3	9.8	9.1	8.4

The calculations presented in the Table 5 and Table 6 indicate a clear increase in the cauliflower early cultivars water needs expected in the forecasted period, considered for thirty-years from 2021 to 2050. In the forecasted years, during the growing period, assumed from April to July, the water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars will increase in the range from 14 to 21 mm, i.e. 6 %. In July, depending on the applied calculation method, was noted the highest increase of water needs (9-13 mm, i.e. 14 %) in the forecasted period, in relation to the reference years. However, in May, in the period from 2021-2050, there was no increase in the cauliflower early cultivars water requirements, as compared to the reference period.

Table 5  
**Water needs (mm) of cauliflower early cultivars in the growing period, acc. to Klatt's method**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Months</b>				
	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>April-July</b>
<b>Heavy soils</b>					
1981-2010	42	60	85	70	258
2021-2050	42	60	91	80	273
<b>Change</b>					
(2021-2050) – (1981-2010)	-	-	6	10	15
<b>Medium soils</b>					
1981-2010	49	71	101	83	304
2021-2050	49	71	107	94	321
<b>Change</b>					
(2021-2050) – (1981-2010)	-	-	6	11	17
<b>Light soils</b>					
1981-2010	57	82	116	95	349
2021-2050	57	82	123	108	369
<b>Change</b>					
(2021-2050) – (1981-2010)	-	-	7	13	20

Table 6  
**Water needs (mm) of cauliflower early cultivars in the growing period, acc. to Press's method**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Months</b>				
	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>April-July</b>
<b>Heavy soils</b>					
1981-2010	39	57	80	66	243
2021-2050	39	57	85	75	257
<b>Change</b>					
(2021-2050) – (1981-2010)	-	-	5	9	14
<b>Medium soils</b>					
1981-2010	49	71	101	83	304
2021-2050	49	71	107	94	321
<b>Change</b>					
(2021-2050) – (1981-2010)	-	-	6	11	17
<b>Light soils</b>					
1981-2010	59	85	121	99	364
2021-2050	59	85	129	112	385
<b>Change</b>					
(2021-2050) – (1981-2010)	-	-	8	13	21

In the present study, the influence of expected rising of air temperature on the water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars, was analyzed [19]. However, other meteorological elements, such as insolation, solar radiation, wind speed or air humidity, also have a significant impact on the level of water available for the plant during the growing period [1].

The forecasted climatic changes, which significantly affects the increase of water needs of the plants, including also vegetables cultivated in the field conditions, are the reason for undertaking adaptation activities. The treatments that effectively supplement the water deficiency in the plant crops

are the irrigation techniques. Generally, the importance of the irrigation methods will grow with the increase of unfavourable climate changes [1;2;22-27]. Nowadays, in Poland, the irrigation is considered as a profitable crop treatment commonly performed in the field cultivation of vegetable plants [7;8]. The results reported by [28-32] also confirmed positive effects of the irrigation techniques on the yield of many vegetable species cultivated in the region of Bydgoszcz (central Poland).

## Conclusions

1. During the forecasted period, considered from 2021 to 2050, the water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars grown in the central Poland will increase by about 6 %.
2. Comparing to the reference period, assumed from 1981 to 2010, the water needs of cauliflower grown on the medium soil will raise in the forecasted years in the range from 304 to 321 mm.
3. On the light soil, the water needs of cauliflower early cultivars, according to the Klatta's and Press's methods, will increase from 349 to 369 mm and from 364 to 385 mm, respectively.
4. The water requirements of cauliflower early cultivars grow on the heavy soil will raise from 258 to 273 mm and from 243 to 257 mm, calculating by Klatta's and Press's method, respectively.
5. In the growing period, assumed from April to July, the highest water needs of cauliflower was noted in June (85-90 mm – heavy soil, 107 mm – medium soil, 123-129 mm – light soil).
6. In the years 2021-2050, in July, should be expected the highest increase of cauliflower early cultivars water requirements (by about 14 %).

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