



**Monterey County Health Department  
Consolidated Environmental Laboratory**

1270 Natividad Rd.  
Salinas, CA 93906  
(831) 755-4516

**IRRIGATION SUITABILITY**

**PURPOSE:** Irrigation suitability tests determine the effects irrigation water will have on soil condition and plant growth. These tests will assess the possible accumulation of soluble salts in the root zone (salinity hazard), interference with water penetration (permeability hazard) and toxic effects on plants (boron, chloride and sodium toxicity).

**SAMPLE COLLECTION:** Water samples taken for irrigation suitability must be collected and handled carefully in order to ensure reliability of laboratory results. The following procedures will help you in this regard:

1. Select a tap as close to the well as possible. When you have found a suitable faucet, open it and allow water to flow for a few minutes before collecting a sample.
2. Carefully fill the special one-quart plastic container provided.
3. Label the sample with sample identification, date and time of collection.
4. Complete the laboratory form including mailing address, name of sample collector, well number, description of sample point, date and time of collection, and test ordered (i.e. "Irrigation Suitability").

**CARE OF SAMPLE**

*Some analyses included in the panel must be tested within 48 hours of collection. To assure that this time limit is met, it is preferable to: 1) collect samples Monday through Friday, and submit the sample directly to the laboratory between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. or 2) collect samples Monday through Friday, and submit to one of the following health department offices, **on the same day of collection:***

Monterey Co. Environmental Health  
1200 Aguajito Rd.  
Monterey, CA  
831-647-7654

Monterey Co. Environmental Health  
200 Broadway St. Suite 70  
King City, CA  
831-386-6899

Monterey - Drop off by 9:00 a.m.

King City – Drop off by 9:00 a.m.

Samples that cannot be delivered to the laboratory within one hour after collection should be refrigerated (e.g. iced cooler). Health department offices can provide for cold storage/transport from point of receipt.

## FEE FOR TESTING

The current fee for Irrigation Suitability analysis is \$139. If you do not have an account with our laboratory, you must pay in advance for this testing. Clients who have an account will be billed at the end of the month that the results are reported.

## INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Should be no problem</b>	<b>Slight to substantial problems depending on plant variety</b>	<b>Severe problems</b>
Conductivity)	< 0.75 dS/m	0.75-3.0 dS/m	>3.0 dS/m
Adjusted Sodium Ratio (SAR adj)	<6	6-9	>9
Boron	<0.5 ppm	0.5-6 ppm	>6 ppm
Chloride	<70 mg/L	70-350 mg/L	>350 mg/L