

Due to the wide variations in climate and soil types found throughout the Province, three methods of irrigation are in use: (1) sprinkling, practised in fairly humid areas, where precipitation is moderate but insufficient during the growing period; (2) delivery by ditch or flume, with distribution over the ground by furrows, used in general for fruit and vegetable crops; and (3) irrigation by flooding, common in stock-raising areas on hay meadows.

Most of the irrigation is by gravity supply, but pumping from lakes and rivers is also practised. Pumping is costly and only warrantable in favoured areas for the growth of high-priced specialty crops.

Estimates of irrigable and irrigated land are given in the following Table. About 85,000 acres are under water licence and capable of being irrigated, nearly 100,000 acres are irrigated by individual effort, the majority being hay and grain for stock-ranches, and for field crops. In addition about 200,000 acres more could be brought under irrigation, but at a cost greater than that of existing works.

47.—Major Irrigation Projects in British Columbia, 1947

Project	Water Supply	Irrigable Area	Irrigated Area	Locality
Provincial Irrigation System—		acres	acres	
Southern Okanagan Lands Project.....	Okanagan River.....	5,000	4,200	Okanagan Valley
Municipal Irrigation Systems—				
Penticton Municipality.....	Penticton and Ellis Creeks....	2,500	2,300	Okanagan Valley
Summerland Municipality....	Trout and Eneas Creeks.....	3,800	3,400	“ “
Irrigation Districts—				
Balfour.....	Laird Creek.....	240	150	Kootenay Valley
Barriere.....	Barriere River.....	315	160	North Thompson Valley
B.C. Fruitlands.....	Jameson and North Thompson River.....	3,200	2,800	North Thompson Valley
Black Mountain.....	Belgo Creek.....	4,000	3,850	Okanagan Valley
Black Sage.....	Okanagan River.....	180	150	“ “
Blueberry Creek.....	Blueberry Creek.....	250	40	Columbia Valley
Cawston.....	Similkameen River.....	500	257	Okanagan Valley
Covert.....	Fourth of July Creek.....	272	272	Near Grand Forks
Darfield.....	Lindquist Creek.....	363	200	North Thompson Valley
East Creston.....	Arrow Creek.....	1,400	1,160	Kootenay Valley
Ellison.....	Kelowna Creek.....	687	687	Okanagan Valley
Girouard.....	Swan Lake Creek.....	110	110	“ “
Glenmore.....	Kelowna Creek.....	2,000	1,946	“ “
Grand Forks.....	Kettle River.....	2,700	2,200	Kettle Valley
Heffley.....	Heffley Creek and North Thompson River.....	2,700	1,633	North Thompson Valley
Kaleden.....	Marron Creek.....	500	430	Okanagan Valley
Keremeos.....	Ashnola River and Keremeos Creek.....	1,020	960	Similkameen Valley
Malcolm Horie.....	Joseph Creek.....	200	150	Near Cranbrook
Merritt Central.....	Coldwater River.....	125	125	Nicola Valley
Naramata.....	Lequime and Robinson Creeks	950	867	Okanagan Valley
Okanagan Falls.....	Shuttleworth Creek.....	400	180	“ “
Oyama.....	Long Lake.....	350	350	“ “
Peachland.....	Peachland Creek.....	450	400	“ “
Renata.....	Dog Creek.....	200	140	Columbia Valley
Robson.....	Pass Creek.....	262	262	“ “
Scotty Creek.....	Scotty Creek.....	863	863	Okanagan Valley
South East Kelowna.....	Hydraulic Creek.....	2,800	2,560	“ “
Trout Creek.....	Trout Creek.....	350	350	“ “
Vermilion.....	Kindersley Creek.....	800	400	Columbia Valley
Vernon.....	Coldstream and Jones Creeks.	7,500	7,200	Okanagan Valley
Westbank.....	Powers Creek.....	700	648	“ “
Winfield and Okanagan Centre	Vernon Creek.....	2,000	1,823	“ “
Wynndel.....	Duck Creek.....	500	450	Kootenay Valley
Irrigation Companies—				
Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruitlands Company.....	Bruce Creek.....	2,000	367	Columbia Valley
Woods Lake Water Company	Oyama Creek.....	792	792	Okanagan Valley