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Determination of Kc Value of Pineapple Plants (*Ananas comusus*) at Different Ages and Different Types of Seeds

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ABSTRACT

Pineapple plants are plants that are able to adapt in areas that have relatively low rainfall, but lack of water in pineapple plants will also cause pineapple growth. The currently available Kc value for pineapple is supported by data owned by FAO with 0.35 grass cover and 0.15 without cover. This research was conducted from January to May 2020 at the Research Location of PT. Great Giant Pineapple Central Lampung. This study used experimental methods and field observations to analyze data to determine the rate of evapotranspiration of GP3 pineapple plants and the age of 1-4 months. Based on the research that has been done, the Kc value of pineapple plants in the treatment of small, medium, large and small crown sucker seedlings was not significantly different. In pineapple plants aged 1-3 BST, The Kc value of pineapple plants tended to be the same, namely 0.45 and decreased at the age of 4BST, namely 0.35. from the Kc value of the plant that has been obtained.

1. Introduction

Pineapple plants are plants that are able to adapt in areas that have relatively low rainfall, but lack of water in pineapple plants will also cause the pineapple growth period to be longer and the weight of the fruit produced tends to decrease (Bartholomeuw et al., 2002). So that pineapple plants need to be given water according to their needs. The need for irrigation water as a whole needs to be known because it is one of the important stages needed in planning and managing irrigation systems.

Plant water needs are water needed by plants to meet evapotranspiration and other needs. The evapotranspiration value that ranges >99% indicates that all water requirements can be considered the same as evapotranspiration (ET) (Rosadi, 2012). When available groundwater is sufficient for plant water requirements, maximum evapotranspiration (ET_m) occurs, but if available groundwater is reduced or cannot fully meet plant water requirements, plants will experience water stress and decrease the rate of evapotranspiration (Priyonugroho, 2014).

Evapotranspiration is a combination of evaporation and transpiration processes. Evaporation is the event that water becomes steam rising into the air and takes place continuously from the water surface, land surface, grasslands, rice fields, forests and others, while transpiration is the event of the movement of water from the soil to the atmosphere through roots, stems and leaves (Gani et al., 2019). Evapotranspiration is the amount of water lost by evaporation from the surface. Plants will grow optimally if the plant's evapotranspiration is met and there are no disturbances from other factors (Sapei and Fauzan, 2012). To be able to determine the rate of evapotranspiration, you must first know the coefficient of plant pineapple (K_c). So the magnitude of the pineapple plant evapotranspiration rate can be determined. The rate of evapotranspiration of pineapple plants is used to determine the water needs of pineapple plants.

The value of potential evapotranspiration is directly proportional to the plant coefficient (K_c) (Sosrodarsono and Takeda, 2006). The currently available K_c value for pineapple is supported by data owned by FAO with 0.35 grass cover and 0.15 without cover. However, with the different types of plant vegetative age and various types of seeds owned by PT. GGP, so It is necessary to research the value of K_c in various types of seeds in order to provide appropriate water requirements at each age of the plant with different types of seeds.

2. Methods

This research was conducted from January to May 2020 at the Research Location of PT. Great Giant Pineapple, Terbanggi Besar District, Central Lampung, Lampung Province. Plants whose K_c value will be calculated will be placed in a closed place such as an artificial glass house which is covered with an ultraviolet plastic roof and the walls are lined with *paranet* so that the plants are not much influenced by environmental factors other than sunlight. Soil analysis was carried out at the Soil and Plants Laboratory of PT. Great Giant Pineapple Central Lampung.

This study used experimental methods and field observations to analyze data to determine the rate of evapotranspiration of GP3 pineapple plants and the age of 1-4 months. By the location and number of seeds used, then this research is a laboratory scale research. Observations were made every day until one month after planting. Observations include measuring soil evaporation measured using a *pan evaporimeter*, plant transpiration with lysimeter weighing method, and measurement of environmental temperature observations as supporting data for evapotranspiration. Observations were made at intervals 1 time per week. The following is a schematic of the weigh lysimeter that will be used:

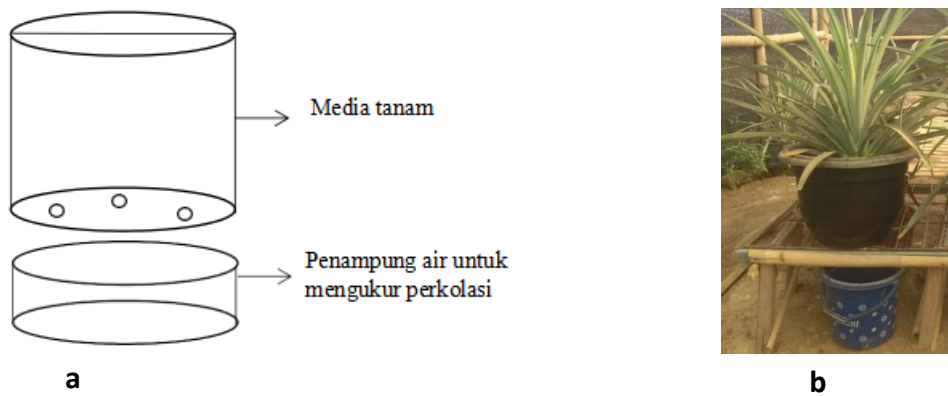


Figure. 1.a. Weigh lysimeter model design, b. lysimeter weigh used during research

Preparation of planting media

The planting media used in this study was an ultisol type which was sieved using a 2cm sieve and then re-sieved with an 8mm sieve. The soil used weighs 30 kg and is put into a pot for the size of the soil.

Preparation of pineapple seeds

Pineapple plant seeds with small crown, large sucker, medium sucker, and small sucker Clone GP3. Pineapple seeds sourced from the research location of PT. GGP. The small crown seeds are taken from the pineapple crown when harvest process. Meanwhile, small, medium and large sucker seedlings were taken from pineapple plants which were prepared for sucker harvesting. The size of the sucker seedlings was selected using a sucker seed gauge.

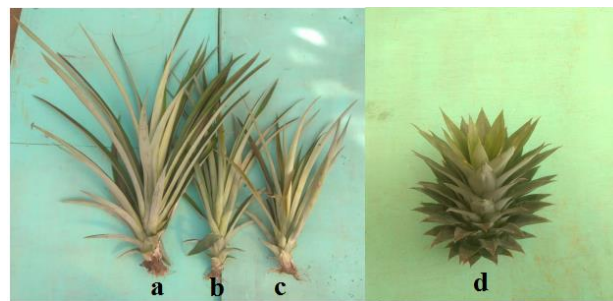


Figure 2. Seed class used in the study (a. big sucker, b. medium sucker, c. small sucker, d. small crown)

In this study, the criteria for small sucker seedlings used had a diameter of 2.9-3.4cm and a weight of 151-200g, while the criteria for medium sucker seedlings had a diameter of 3.9-4.2cm and a weight of 276-350g. The criteria for large sucker seeds are 4.8-5.3cm in diameter and 451-575g in weight. In small crown seedlings, the criteria for seedling length are 15-17cm and weight is 151-200g.

Determination of plant water supply during the experiment

Giving irrigation water on each plant is manually adjusted to the volume of water lost as long as there is each pot. Provision of water is carried out periodically but still takes into account the state of the soil in field conditions by measuring soil water content using a Moisture Probe Meter (MPM).



Picture1.Moisture Probe Meter (MPM) tool.

Weighing method

The weighing of the pots was carried out using a digital scale with an accuracy of 200 grams. Weighing of pots is done once every 7 days for 4 full months. In the control treatment, weighing was carried out only on pots containing soil without plants. DataThe observations taken were climatic data (air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed,intensity of solar radiation) irrigation water data, soil water content, and the amount of evaporation of plants with planting media (ETc). While the monthly data taken are data on length, width, D-leaf index of plants and leaf color of pineapple plants.

Measurement method

PWeighing of plants and growing media was carried out simultaneously usingscales. Weighing is done every 7 days to determine the interval of changes in plant weight after watering.Determination of water that is watered every day to reach field capacity is to add water to the amount of water lost every day.

Water loss analysis

The method of determining plant evapotranspiration is carried out using the following formula:

$$ET_c = B_2 - B_1$$

Where is ET_c is E plant vapotranspiration (mm), B₁ is the initial weight of the pot and B₂ is the final weight of the pot. Provision of water only comes from irrigation so that rainfall is considered 0 or non-existent.

Calculation of crop coefficient

Determine the plant coefficient by using the lysimeter weigh method. The E_{To} value was obtained from the evaporation measured by the dick pot without the plant, while the E_{To} value was calculated by weighing the weight of the plant with the planting medium after adding 6000 ml of water (water given / irrigation) and left for one week for further weighing. Determination of the value of K_c is done by using the formula:

$$ETC = K_c \times E_{To}$$

Or

$$K_c = E_{Tc}/E_{To}$$

Where E_{Tc} is plant evapotranspiration (mm/day), E_{To} is evaporation constant / reference plant (mm/day), K_c is plant coefficient. E_{To} was obtained from the amount of evaporation in the control treatment without plants. The E_{Tc} value was obtained from the evaporation rate of each treatment on various types of seeds. So the value of K_c can be determined by dividing the value of ETC by E_{To} .

3. Results and discussion

The results of the analysis of the physical properties of the soil

Based on the results of soil analysis, the following results were obtained:

Table 1. The results of the analysis of the physical properties of the soil

Soil Physical Properties		Results Analysis	
Particle Distribution	Sand (57.50%)	Dust (10.04%)	Clay (32.46%)
Texture	Sandy clay loam		
Mass Weight	1.51g/cm ³		
Specific gravity	2.30g/cm ³		

The value of the sand fraction of the texture soil obtained from measurements using a hydrometer on the reading in the 40th second is 57.50%. while the results of the dust fraction at 2 hours of measurement obtained the value of the dust fraction of 10.04%. The textures obtained from the hydrometer method in all treatments can be classified into sandy clay loam texture classes. Determination of texture class is obtained from the percentage of sand, silt and clay fractions in the texture triangle. Based on the texture, the ability of the soil to store water is quite good. According to [Agus et al. \(2004\)](#) Texture is the relative ratio between the fractions of sand, silt and clay, namely soil particles with an effective diameter of 2 mm. In texture analysis, organic matter fraction is not taken into account. According to [Hasibuan \(2011\)](#) soil texture is important to know because the composition of the three fractions of soil grains (sand, silt, and clay) will determine the physical properties of the soil.

Based on the value of soil density obtained using the gravimetric method, the results tend to be the same for each soil used as a planting medium. The density of the resulting soil was 1.51 g/cm³ which indicated that the soil used could still be penetrated by the roots of the pineapple plant and did not inhibit the uptake of water by the plant roots and also did not inhibit the growth of the pineapple plant. According to [Islam and Utomo \(1995\)](#) Plant roots grow and elongate between the spaces between soil solids (pore spaces), the same thing happens to the movement of water. According to [Haryati \(2014\)](#) The density of soil is closely related to the ease of root penetration into the soil,

drainage and soil aeration with other soil properties such as total pore space and pore space distribution. This means that the soil is porous so that plant roots can easily penetrate into the soil.

Analysis of the specific gravity of the soil on the planting medium used in the experiment using the gravimetric method obtained results of 2.30g/cm³. This value indicates that the specific gravity of the soil used in the experiment is a good soil for storing water because its water storage capacity is quite large.

Observations of plant morphology 2BST-4BST (March-May 2020)

Morphological observations of pineapple plants were carried out at the age of 2BST-4BST. This was done because at the age of 1 BST, the pineapple plant observation parameters such as length, width and leaf color were not significantly different from the seeds at the beginning of planting. The main object of observation is the D-Leaf section of the pineapple plant. D-Leaf was chosen because it is the longest group of leaves on the pineapple plant. according to Sideris and Krauss (1936) in Souza and Reinhardt(2001), D-Leaf group is the longest leaf on the plant and have soft leaf bases. D-Leaf can represent leaf standards in pineapple plants that are easily identified and can be used to index growth and evaluate the nutritional status of pineapple plants. Following are the results of observations on each parameter:

Pineapple Plant D-Leaf Length 2BST-4 BST

On the D-Leaf length of pineapple plants, observations were made from the age of 2 BST and carried out every month until the pineapple plants are 4BST. The observation of growth long The D-Leaf that has been carried out shows the following results (Table 2).

Table 2. Long growth of D-Leaf pineapple plant age 2BST-4BST

Seed Type	P. D-leaf $\pm$ SD(cm)		
	2BST	3 BST	4 BST
<i>Crown Ksmall</i>	37.45 $\pm$ 0.64a	45.75 $\pm$ 0.78a	56,00 $\pm$ 0.45a
<i>Sucker Ksmall</i>	44.30 $\pm$ 0.66b	57.40 $\pm$ 0.82b	70.05 $\pm$ 0.31b
<i>Sucker Sedang</i>	48.25 $\pm$ 0.48c	59.75 $\pm$ 0.95c	78,00 $\pm$ 0.10c
<i>Sucker Besar</i>	57.80 $\pm$ 0.80d	73.12 $\pm$ 0.32d	82.60 $\pm$ 0.80d

Note: numbers followed by different letter notations in the same column show significantly different results based on the 5% DMRT test. SD: Standard Deviation.

Based on Table 2, the D-leaf length growth of pineapple plants was significant over time. The longest D-leaf was found in plants with large sucker class seeds and the lowest in plants with small crown classes. This is because the diversity of types of seeds will affect the vegetative growth of pineapple leaves, especially on the length of pineapple leaves. According to Samson (1980) in the vegetative phase, leaf length continued to increase to a maximum length in line with the age of the

plant. Pineapple plants that have normal growth and development will have more than 35 complete leaves at about 12 months after planting.

Pineapple plant D-Leaf Width 2BST-4 BST

OnwideD-Leaf pineapple plants, observations were carried out starting at the age of 2BST and carried out every month until the pineapple plants were 4BST. From the observations that have been made show the following results (Table 3).

Table3.D-Leaf growth of pineapple plant age 2-4BST

Seed Type	WideD-leaf $\pm$ SD(cm)		
	2BST	3 BST	4 BST
<i>CrownKsmall</i>	3.30 $\pm$ 0.12a	3.70 $\pm$ 0.03a	4.10 $\pm$ 0.08a
<i>Sucker Ksmall</i>	3.40 $\pm$ 0.12a	3.85 $\pm$ 0.13a	4.15 $\pm$ 0.02a
<i>SuckerSedang</i>	3.65 $\pm$ 0.06ab	3.90 $\pm$ 0.08a	4.20 $\pm$ 0.06a
<i>Sucker Besar</i>	3.90 $\pm$ 0.31b	4,00 $\pm$ 0.45a	4.60 $\pm$ 0.08a

Note: numbers followed by the same letter notation in the same column show results that are not significantly different based on the 5% DMRT test. SD: Standard Deviation.

Based on Table 3, the D-Leaf width growth of pineapple plants had insignificant growth over time because the values tended to be the same during the observations. The widest D-Leaf was found in plants with large sucker class seeds and the lowest in plants with small crown seeds. This is because the leaf width of the pineapple plant still tends to be the same in the early vegetative period, so it is likely that the leaf width will change significantly when it enters the generative phase. According to [Kristen et al. \(2000\)](#) parameters of the plant at first slow then gradually fast until there is a maximum growth and decline.

Pineapple D-Leaf Index 2BST-4 BST

D-Leaf index is one of the observation parameters used as an index of pineapple plant growth. The measured D-Leaf index values on pineapple plants aged 2BST-4BST are as follows (Table 4).

Table 4. Pineapple D-Leaf Index 2BST-4 BST

Seed Type	Index. D-leaf		
	2BST	3 BST	4 BST
<i>CrownKsmall</i>	117.44a	176.14a	235.2a

<i>Sucker Ksmall</i>	152.62b	212.93b	297.85b
<i>SuckerSedang</i>	174.64c	230.98c	331.95c
<i>Sucker Besar</i>	227.03d	296.48d	389.22d

Note: numbers followed by different letter notations in the same column show significantly different results based on the 5% DMRT test.

Based on Table 4, the growth of pineapple plants which can be seen from the value of the D-Leaf index of pineapple plants is significant over time. D-Leaf with the highest index was found in plants with large sucker class and the lowest in plants with small crown seeds. This is in accordance with the growth of leaf width and length, because the D-Leaf index is obtained from the product of the width and length of the D-Leaf. According to [Zanon et al. \(2015\)](#) Determination of leaf area in response to different agroecosystems and climatic conditions can assist in monitoring pineapple plant growth and improve management practices. Based on research conducted by [Vilela et al. \(2015\)](#) D-Leaf index was considered the most metabolically active in plants, reflecting the actual nutritional state and productive capacity of pineapples being the most important of crop cultivation.

Pineapple plant D-Leaf color percentage 2BST-4 BST

Observation parameters in the form of the percentage of D-Leaf color of pineapple plants on all types of seedlings aged 2BST-4BST treatment reached 100% or all were green with a percentage of N absorbed by 25-50%. This shows that the plants did not experience water stress such as flooding and lack of water during observations. According to [Song and Banyo \(2011\)](#) availability of water as the main factor that plays a role in plant physiological processes. Water is also a solvent for salts, gases and other substances that are transported between cells in tissues to maintain cell growth and maintain leaf shape stability. Water also plays a role in the process of opening and closing stomata. The response of plants to water drought is generally indicated by a decrease in leaf chlorophyll concentration. The decrease in chlorophyll content when plants lack water is related to the activity of photosynthetic apparatus and decreases the rate of plant photosynthesis. Lack of water will affect the content and organization of chlorophyll in chloroplasts in tissues.

A. The results of observations of plant evapotranspiration in February-May 2020.

In determining the plant coefficient value using the lysimeter weigh method, the data produced is the evapotranspiration of pineapple plants in each seed class during February-May 2020 (Figure 5).

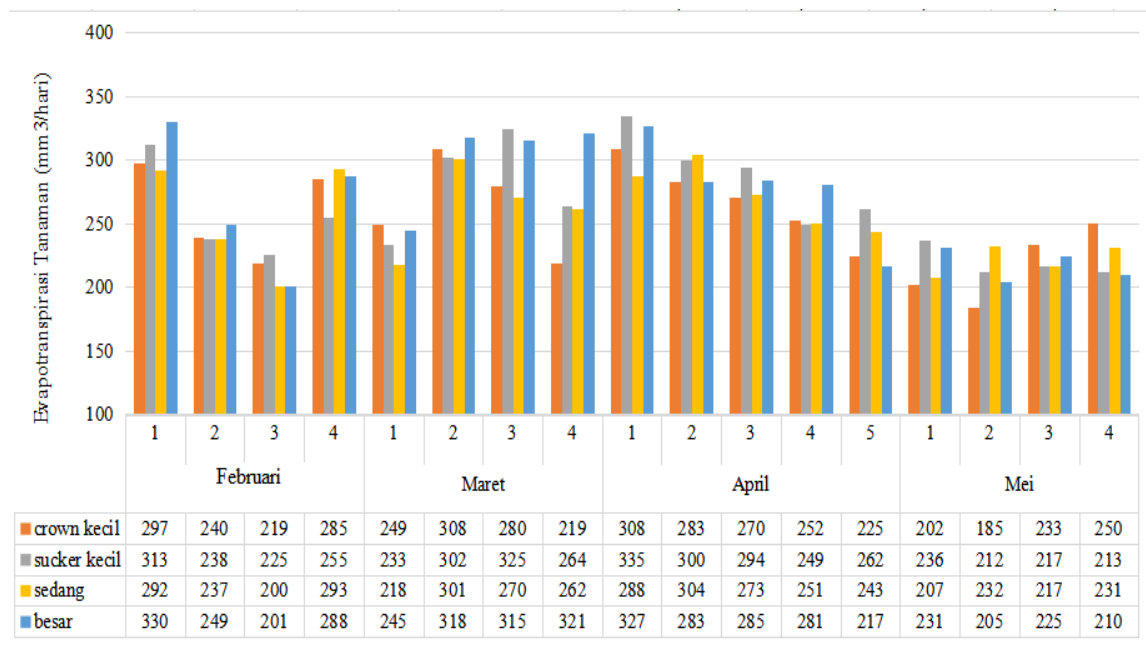


Figure 5. Pineapple plant evapotranspiration during February-May 2020

Based on Figure 5, the results of observations of plant evapotranspiration on small crown seedlings, small suckers, medium suckers and large suckers that occurred at 1-4 BST (February-May 2020) showed fluctuating graphs. The highest plant evapotranspiration tended to occur in small sucker seedlings during February to May 2020. Meanwhile, plant evapotranspiration during observations of 4 BST tended to decrease and the lowest was at 4 BST. This can happen because the size of different types of seeds and plant growth every month will also affect the canopy area on pineapple plants so that the larger the pineapple plant in the vegetative period, the more covered the soil surface. It is possible that the evapotranspiration value will be different if the pineapple plant has entered the fast phase.

Another study conducted by Sajiwo (2017) stated that in the early period, evapotranspiration was lower because the plants were still small so that the plant surface area for evaporation was smaller, while in the fertilization phase the maximum growth phase and during the ripening period the fruit was old which was less productive and the metabolic process had started to slow down so that reduced water requirements.

B. Reference evapotranspiration (ET₀) at 1-4 BST (February-May 2020) using the method Penman-Monteith

Based on the results of climate observations over the last 10 years, the data obtained is processed to produce the actual evapotranspiration value (ET₀). Data processing in determining the actual evapotranspiration is carried out using the Cropwatt application version 8.0. In Cropwatt version 8.0, ET₀ assignment uses the Penman-Monteith method (Allen et al., 1998) which is described by the equation:

$$ET_0 = \frac{0.408\Delta(Rn - G) + \frac{900}{T + 273} U_2 (e_s - e_a)}{\Delta + \gamma(1 + 0.34U_2)}$$

Where ET_0 is Reference evapotranspiration(mm/day), Rn as Net radiation on the plant surface(MJ/m²/day), G as Soil heat flux(MJ/m²/day), T as Daily temperature average at a height of 2 meters(⁰C), U_2 as Wind speed at a height of 2 meters,(m/sec), e_s as Saturated vapor pressure (kPa)

Based on the above equation, the average monthly ET_0 value calculated using Cropwatt version 8.0 is presented in Gambar 6.

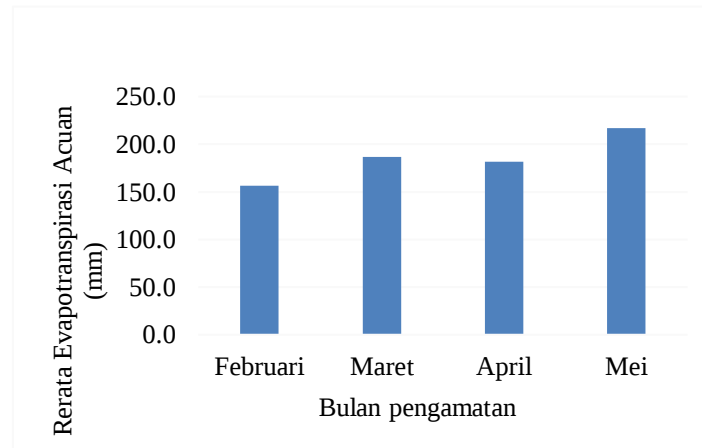


Figure 6. Average monthly ET_0 value

Based on Figure 6, it shows that the lowest mean reference evapotranspiration (ET_0) occurs in Month February is 156.2mm. The highest reference evapotranspiration value occurred in May, which was 216.7mm. The reference evapotranspiration value fluctuates due to different temperature and humidity factors in each month. According to Fuadi (2016) climatic factors that affect evapotranspiration are temperature, humidity, wind speed and solar radiation and latitude.

C. Pineapple plant coefficient values for several seed classes at 1-4 BST (February-May 2020)

On determination The coefficient value of pineapple plants, based on the results of the analysis of the actual plant evapotranspiration in each pot, the small crown seedling class and the small sucker seed class had the same results, so the plant coefficient value was determined based on the small, medium and large seed classes at the age of 1BST-4BST (Figure 7)

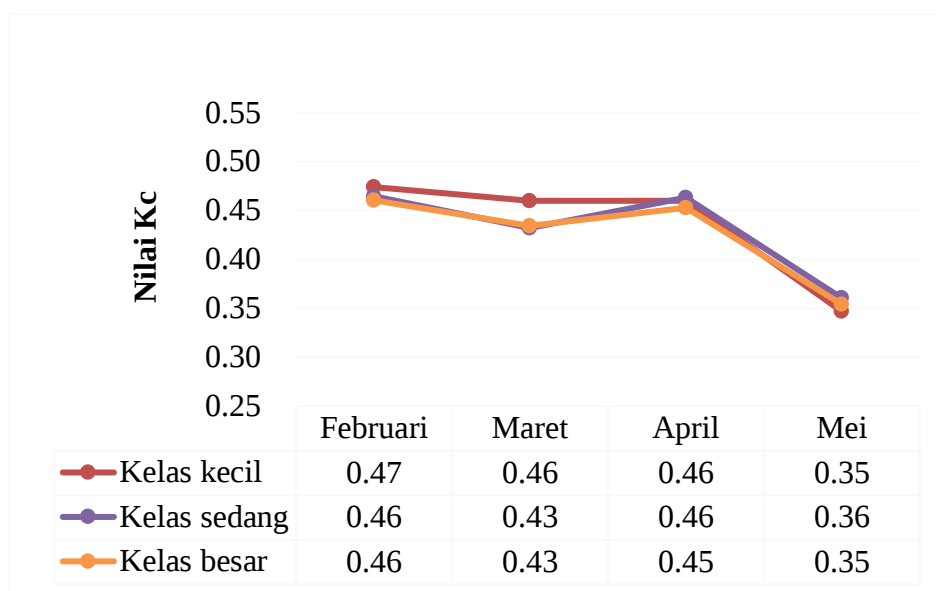


Figure 7. The Kc value of pineapple for small, medium and large seed classes at the age of 1-4 BST.

Based on Figure 9, the results of observing the Kc value of pineapple plants using the lysimeter weigh method, it was found that the coefficient value of pineapple plants tended to be the same in all seed classes. In the treatment of different types of seeds, the Kc value of pineapple plants was not significantly different. However, in terms of age of pineapple plants, the Kc value of pineapple plants decreased at the age of 4 BST, so that the Kc value of pineapple plants produced different values at different ages of plants.

The results of other coefficient values that are obtained from research de Azevedo et al. (2007) show different values. Different Kc values were obtained by dividing the vegetative phase into two phases which counted for approximately 84 days (3 BST) in phase 1 and phase 2. In phase 1 the Kc value obtained was around 0.88 and in the second phase was 0.91. This high Kc value can be caused by different climatic conditions. The factor of the value of plant evapotranspiration and evaporation greatly affects the results of the determination of Kc. Different climatic conditions every month will be the main factor in determining the Kc value, so that the Kc value is strongly influenced by the age of the pineapple plant.

D. Analysis of pineapple plant water needs using Cropwatt version 8.0

The pineapple plant coefficient values obtained at 1-4 BST were then divided into 2, namely 1-3 BST with Kc 0.45 as the initial growth phase and 4 BST with Kc 0.35 as the pre grand growth phase.

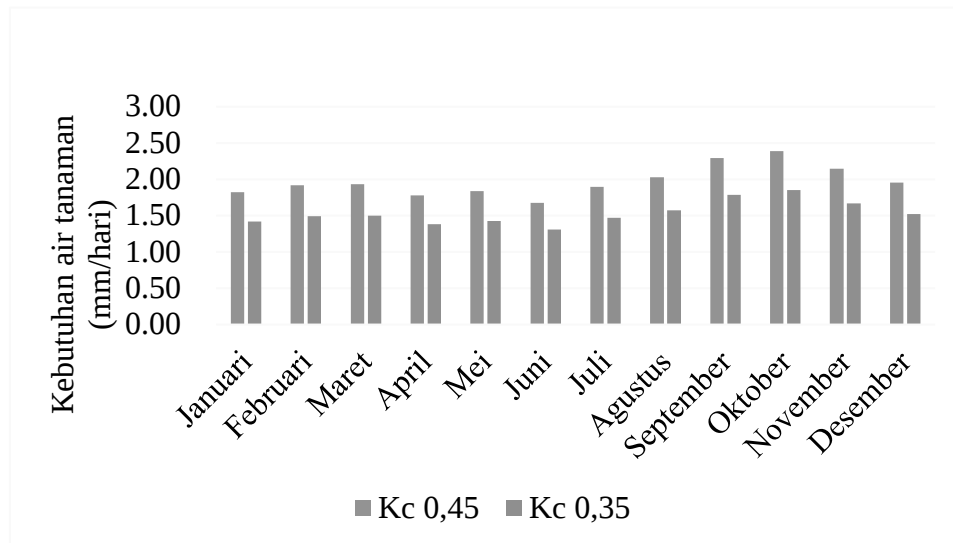


Figure 8. Pineapple plant water needs

Based on Figure 8, the highest water requirement for pineapple plants in October is 2.39mm/day in the initial growth phase and 1.86mm/day in the pre-grand growth phase. The lowest value of pineapple plant water needs occurs in June it was 1.68mm/day in the initial growth phase and 1.31mm/day in the pre-grand growth phase.

The measured Kc value is directly proportional to the water requirement of the pineapple plant. The higher the Kc value, the higher the water requirement for pineapple plants. According to Priyonugroho (2014), the overall water demand needs to be known because it is one of the important stages needed in the planning and management of the irrigation system.

E. Analysis of irrigation needs using 8.0 . cropwatt

The data obtained from observations were then analyzed using crop watts 8.0 to determine the irrigation water that needs to be given to pineapple plants in the next phase. Based on data analysis using Cropwat 8.0, the irrigation water requirements that need to be provided are as follows (Table 5).

Table 5. Pineapple irrigation water needs

Month	Period	Phase	Irrigation Needs mm/period	Irrigation Needs mm/day
June	3	Development	1.1	0.11
	1	Development	2.3	0.23
July	2	Development	4.9	0.49
	3	Middle	11.9	1.19
	1	Middle	12.8	1.28
August	2	Middle	15.8	1.58
	3	Middle	18.5	1.85
September	1	Middle	14.0	1.40
	2	Middle	13.8	1.38
	3	Middle	12.5	1.25

October	1	<i>Middle</i>	12.9	1.29
	2	<i>Middle</i>	12.4	1.24

Description: 1 Period=10 days.

Based on Table 5, irrigation water can be given in period 3 in June to period 3 in October. The highest irrigation water supply will be carried out in August at 1.85mm/day with an estimated plant being in the Middle phase. Determination of the provision of crop irrigation water based on the amount of effective rainfall that exists, so that the provision of water for each phase is not always the same.

4. Conclusions

Different types of plant seeds have no effect on the coefficient value of the plant. However, the age of the plant determines the coefficient of the plant the most. Plant coefficient value at the age of 1-3 BST is 0.45 and at the age of 4 BST was 0.35. Analysis of the highest water demand for pineapple plants in October was 2.39mm/day in the initial growth phase and 1.86mm/day in the pre-grand growth phase. The lowest pineapple plant water requirement occurred in June of 1.68mm/day in the initial growth phase and 1.31mm/day in the pre-grand growth phase.

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6. Authors Note

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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