



Note: appropriate depths for specific crops should be calculated.

Figure 5.2 Managing the water table depth for plant development (*Controlled Drainage / Subirrigation* Factsheet, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1998)

5.2 Seasonal Management Strategy

Allred et al (2003) has recommended the following strategy for management and allocation of stored irrigation water resources to controlled drainage systems for near average, wetter than average and drier than average years (see Fig 5.1). Determining what type of seasonal climate is occurring within a growing season is typically based on rainfall to date and long range forecasts.

5.2.1 Near Average

These are typical conditions that occur based on previous seasonal averages.

- 1) For rainfall events of less than 5 mm, no changes are required for subirrigation or adjustments to hydraulic control structures.
- 2) For rainfall events greater than 5 mm, but less than 13 mm, subirrigation should be turned off and remain off for approximately 24 hours, then restarted if no additional rainfall occurs (knowing when to restart the system can be determined using observation wells. No changes should be needed for the hydraulic control structures (i.e. flashboards or weirs).