

Publishing Tips

Agricultural Experiment Station • Cooperative Extension Service

Graphics Fundamentals: Charts and Graphs

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Color vs. Black/White

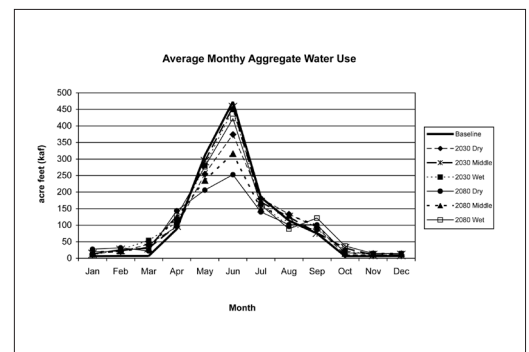
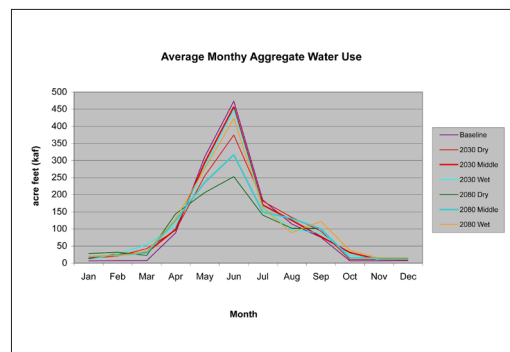
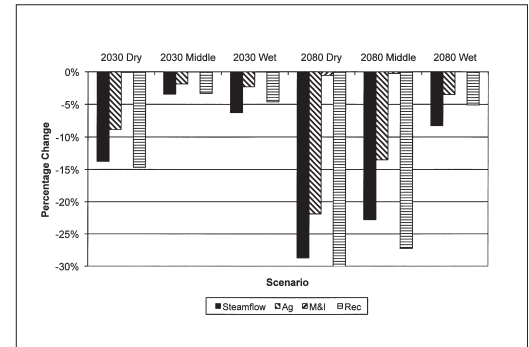
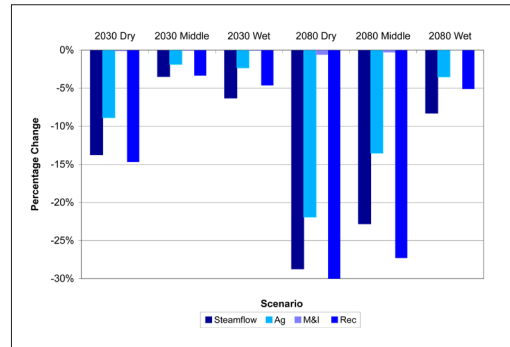
We recommend that authors avoid using color as a design feature in charts/graphs and instead use different styles of lines in line graphs and distinct data point markers or different patterns in bar graphs and pie charts. This is because when clean black/white is used, chart/graphs print better and reproduce better when photocopied. It would also be difficult to determine which bar goes with each category if a photocopy or black/white print of the color version of these charts were made.

Most of our AES/CES publications are printed in black and white and posted to the Web in color—if they contain color photographs. This is done because color printing can be expensive. We would be glad to post your publication in color for the

online version, but we will convert the color charts/graphs to clean black/white versions for the print version. **Remember, if someone prints the online, color version to their black/white printer, they may find it difficult to read the data in your chart.**

Bad

Good



Line Thickness

We also recommend that the thickness of lines used in the charts/graphs be increased to at least 1 pt. Note that the lines in the color versions of the charts/graphs pictured are much too thin and would not print/duplicate clearly.