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Bingera Area Irrigation Pump



This irrigation pump is situated close to the nearby highway for easy access. While power lines are overhead, the tractor-mounted pump is distillate powered. While we generally do not model large areas of cane fields, a model of such a pump would be appropriate for a focal point close to the edge of the layout as if the cane field was in the aisle.

Sugar cane is a tropical grass with a fibrous stalk that requires sunny frost-free weather, fertile well-drained soils and either lots of rain or very good irrigation.

A clump of about 12 stalks grows from a cut length of mature cane which has been planted in well-spaced furrows to allow for mechanical cultivation. Cane grows for 12 to 16 months before being harvested in the second half of the year, with a second or 'ratoon' crop sometimes being grown from the same planting.

With good planning, and a laser-levelled field, the furrows can also be used to deliver to water the plants. Alternatively aerial



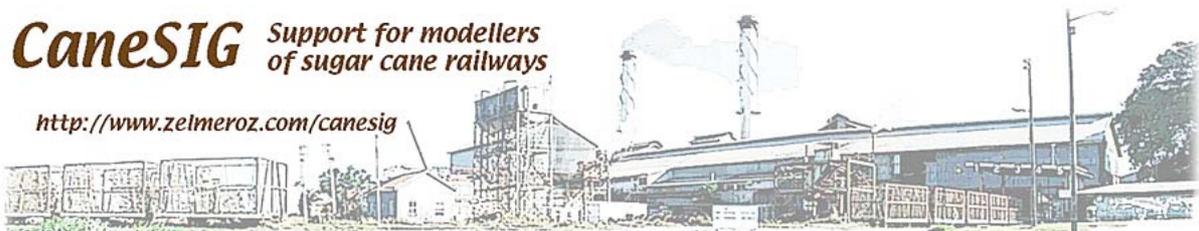
Permanent pipe with valve and connection to flexible pipe to pump. The valve and connection can be seen to the left of the pump in the photo above. Two steel posts identify the site for when the pump is not present.

spraying accomplishes the same task but likely with higher evaporation rates.

Sometimes the water will come direct from the supply (stream, canal or bore) but often there will be some form of underground pipe system, as here, and almost always there will be a need for a pump at the field.

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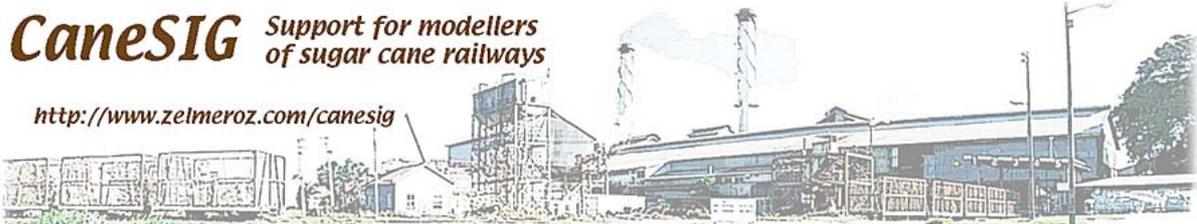
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It was unclear at this site whether the delivery hose would be perforated so that water trickled out all along the hose, or whether trenches would be dug to direct the water to the furrows. Both systems have been used, although trickle systems are more likely with water restrictions and escalating costs.

This site uses a trailer-mounted pump out in the open. Other sites might enclose a trailer-mounted pump, or have a permanent pumping station in a small shed with sides that can be opened for ventilation. Larger and more sophisticated valves and connections are common in other areas.

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