

The above factors need to be considered as per the requirements of the location of the field. It is important to know the broad features, efficiency and economy of various irrigation systems to decide the merits and demerits of the potential alternates of irrigation system. The common types of irrigation methods, along with their capabilities and limitations are covered in the following sections.

Irrigation Methods

Irrigation water may be applied to crops by flooding the field surface, by applying it beneath the soil surface, by spraying it under pressure or by applying it drop by drops. Accordingly the following different methods are in vogue

Schematic Presentation of Irrigation Methods

The common methods of irrigation are indicated schematically as given below.

As described earlier, the water supply, the type of soil, the topography of the land and the crop to be irrigated determine the appropriate method of irrigation to be used. Irrespective of the method of irrigation, it is necessary to design the system for the most efficient use of water by the crop.

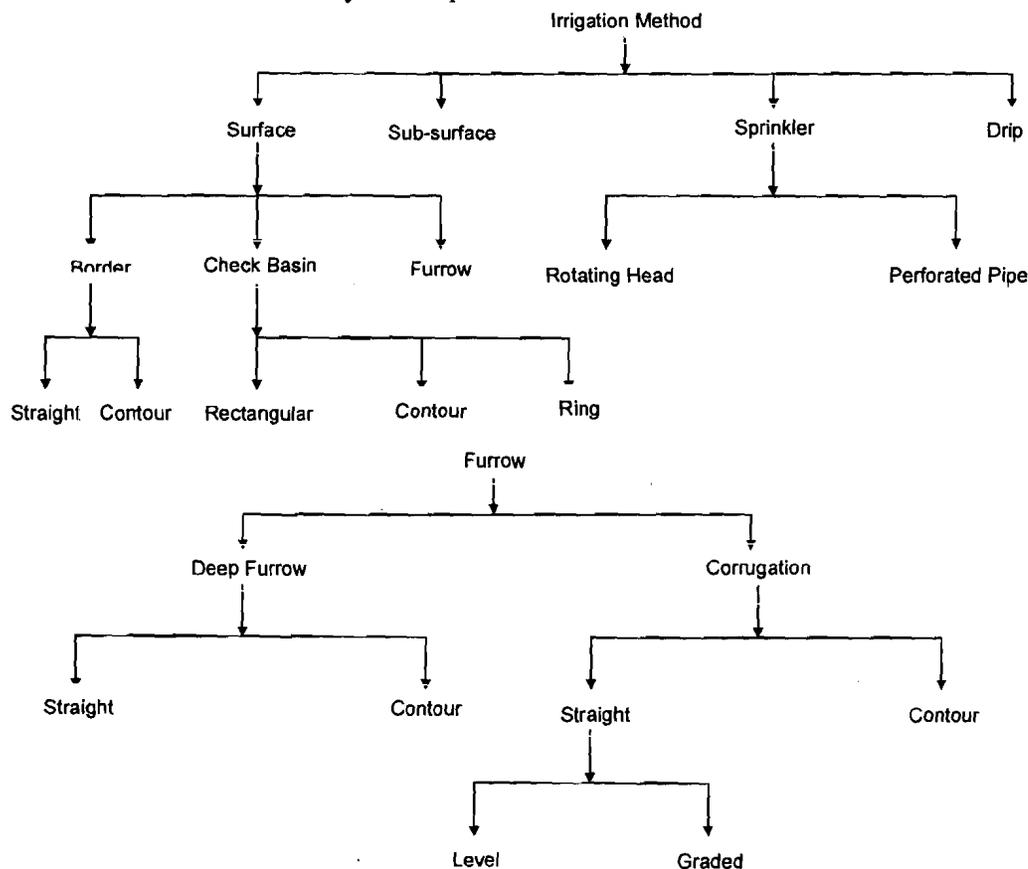


Figure 6.1 : Irrigation Method

6.3 SURFACE IRRIGATION METHODS

A brief about surface and subsurface irrigation method is given in Unit 1. Here, we will not detail out sub surface irrigation methods. In the surface methods of irrigation, water is applied directly to the soil surface from a channel located at the