



Fig. 8. Evapotranspiration ( $ET$ ) for tomatoes (reported by Saxena et al. (1971) for Live Oak, Florida).

NOTE: See Note, Fig. 5.

$ET$  "from an extended surface of 8 to 15 cm tall green grass cover of uniform height, actively growing, completely shading the ground and not short of water" (Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977). Actual crop  $ET$  is estimated by multiplying  $ET_p$  estimates by a crop coefficient ( $k_c$ ), or:

$$ET = k_c ET_p \quad (20)$$

Crop coefficients are empirical factors that describe the net effects of soil and crop conditions on actual  $ET$ . They are measured under well-watered conditions and depend on the rainfall and irrigation patterns and on the method for estimating  $ET_p$ . For example, the Blaney-Criddle and Thornthwaite methods do not consider vapor pressure deficit (or aridity). Thus, crop coefficients based on those methods are influenced by local climatic conditions. Because local environmental conditions are taken into