



Fig. 15. The relationship between crop yield and estimated *ET* for soybeans grown in deep sandy soil in north Florida (from L. C. Hammond, unpublished data, Gainesville, Florida).

4.2 EFFECTIVE RAINFALL

Effective rainfall is defined as rainfall which is temporarily stored in the soil and available to meet the *ET* requirements of crops. It does not include runoff or percolation below the crop root zone. Effective rainfall is used to estimate the supplemental irrigation requirements. Rainfall amounts and temporal distributions, *ET* rates, and soil hydraulic characteristics are the primary factors influencing rainfall effectiveness.

In humid areas such as Florida, the magnitude and intensity of storm events are usually different in wet and dry seasons. In the wet season, convective and tropical depression storms of large magnitude and high intensity occur frequently. Once soil water is restored after the dry