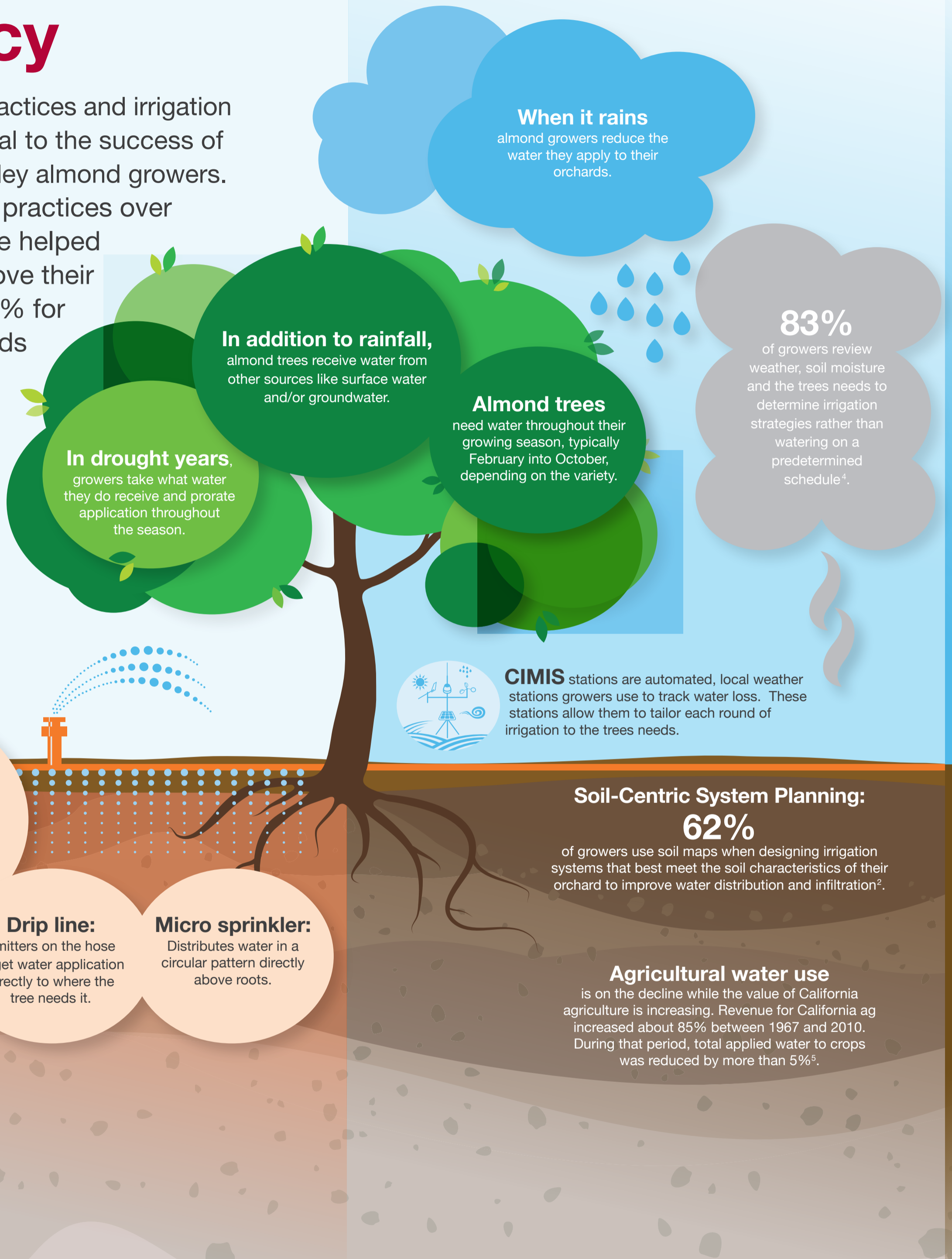


# Water Efficiency

Water use efficiency practices and irrigation management are central to the success of California's Central Valley almond growers. Advanced production practices over the past 30 years have helped almond growers improve their water efficiency by 33% for every pound of almonds grown today<sup>1</sup>.



Analysis

Agricultural Practices

Application

## The Future

The Almond Board of California invests almost \$2 million a year researching production and environmental issues. Current research projects include:



The Almond Board started researching traditional almond breeding in 1974. Over the years, this research has added focus on almond tree and root traits that require less water and can withstand higher salinity. Progress in this area is long term.



Soil can vary significantly – therefore the Almond Board is funding research to manage irrigation and production practices that can match the different soil types within one orchard.



Ongoing research will increase irrigation efficiency by improving understanding of complex factors like tree size that impact evapotranspiration (water lost through soil, air and leaves).

<sup>1</sup> UC Drought Management – Historical Almond ET, see and Goldhamer, David. 2012. Almond in Group Yield Response to Water. FAO irrigation and Drainage Paper No. 65, P. Steduto, T.C. Hsiao, E. Fereres, and D. Raes, eds. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy, pp. 246-296.  
<sup>2-4</sup> Almond Board of California. 2014 Almond Sustainability Report. California Almond Sustainability Program. 95pp.  
<sup>5</sup> California Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) – Water Plan Update, 2013