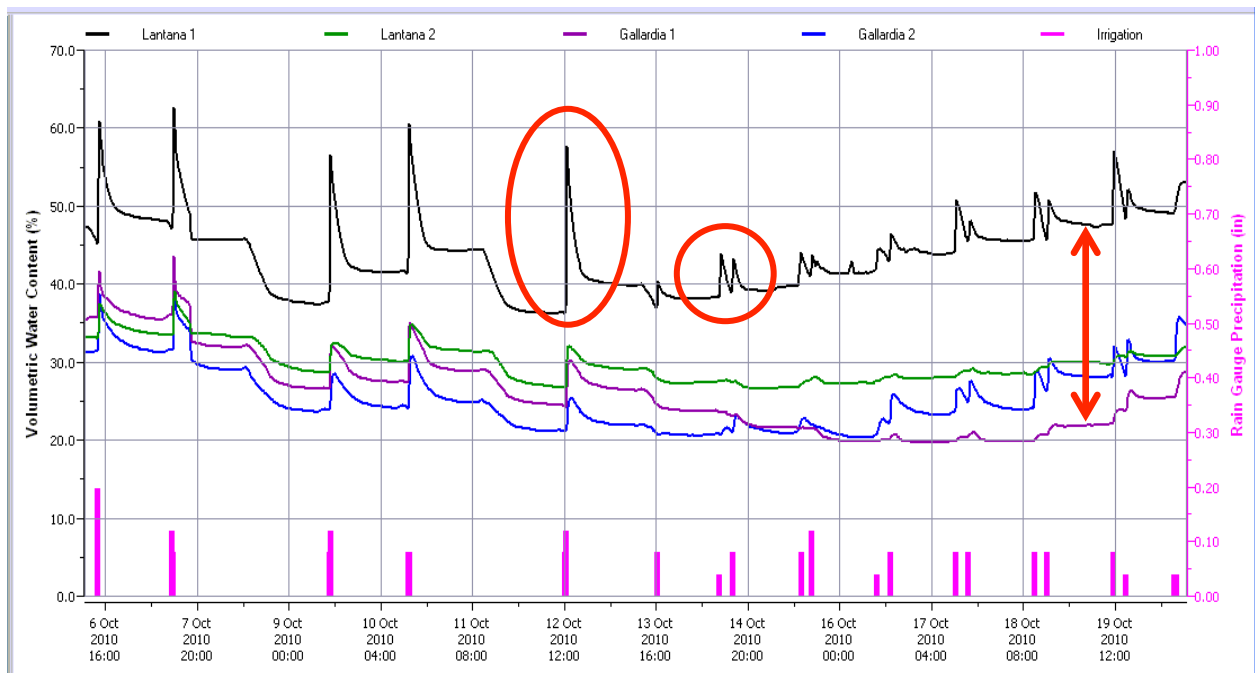


#### 4. Common Trends and Patterns

There are common trends and patterns in data that are indicative to what is occurring in terms of individual irrigation events as well as overall irrigation trends.

Gradual increases or decreases over time (days or weeks) can show overall trends in irrigation and/or substrate moisture and can tell you if crops are under- or over-watered.



*Figure 8. A sharp increase followed by a sharp decrease in volumetric water content (indicated in the left circle) normally represents an irrigation event followed by leaching. In larger containers, it may also indicate that the water has drained to the part of the substrate below the sensor. Multiple peaks close together represent cyclic irrigation or multiple irrigation events. The circle to the right in the graph below shows two irrigation events on one day. This also shows that two shorter irrigation events have smaller peaks, suggesting less leaching. The ideal 'signature' of an irrigation event would be a rapid rise, followed by a gradual decrease in substrate water content (see data in figure 9).*