



# Outdoor Watering Guidelines

## Lawns

The greatest disservice you can do for your lawn is to water too lightly. Too little water will not accommodate grass roots. If light watering occurs frequently, the roots will start to climb toward the surface, seeking moisture. This results in "burning", particularly in hot weather.

The heaviest root concentrations are usually 2 ½" to 3" below the ground level of your lawn. When using the meter you should probe 3" below the surface. A meter reading of 5 would indicate a satisfactory watering. Provided that your lawn has good drainage, it is virtually impossible to over-water.

Please note: Sometimes, when using your moisture meter outside to check lawns, flowerbeds and vegetable gardens, you may encounter considerable resistance while probing. It is possible the tip of the probe has hit a stone or some other obstruction in the ground. Continuing to exert undue pressure will cause damage to the bimetallic tip, so, remove the probe and start over again elsewhere.

## Landscaping and Gardens

Most experts agree that plants should never be allowed to dry to their "wilting point". The following tables for Vegetables and Landscape Plants give suggested approximate readings that indicate the wilt point is near. Watering is recommended when your test readings coincide with the recommendations.

When you do water, water thoroughly. Root depths vary greatly with different plants and vegetables; however, your moisture meter probe can give you a reading as far down as 4" from the surface. When you check after watering, your meter should read all the way across the dial, to the "10" position. This would indicate sufficient water has seeped down. In soils with poor drainage (too much clay) allow time (15 – 30 minutes) before checking.

## Important note:

The readings in the chart below are for average garden loam. Technically, loam is a soil that has characteristics roughly midway between those of a sandy soil and a clay soil. We do not mean that loam consists of clay and sand in equal proportions. It is a mixture of clay, sand, silt – and – if fertile, it normally contains a good portion of organic material (humus). Humus is the name given to all decayed organic matter, whether of plant or animal origin. It is a vital component of all fertile soils. If your soil reasonably conforms to the description, use the wilt point guide numbers as indicated. But if your soil is on the sandy side, add one number to the number listed. If your soil has a high percentage of clay, subtract one number from the number indicated.

## Comment Key

1. Spray foliage daily
2. Never let soil dry out
3. Keep soil moist but never soggy
4. Keep soil wet at all times
5. Allow soil to dry between watering.
6. Soil should remain dry 4–5 days
7. Reduce watering during dormant period.
8. Water from beneath (in saucer.) Never wet foliage.
9. Water more and more frequently when temperatures are hot.
10. Water thoroughly.

## Checking Frequency Key

1. Check once a week.
2. Check every 4-5 days.
3. Check every 3 days.

Plant Name	Water Number	Checking Frequency	Comment
Alyssum	5	3	3
Artichoke	4	3	2, 3
Asparagus	4	3	2, 3, 10
Azalea	5	2	2
Bamboo	5	2	2
Basil	4	1	2, 3
Bean	3	3	2, 3
Beet	4	3	2, 3
Broccoli	3	3	2, 3
Cabbage	4	3	2, 3
Camellia	5	2	3
Canna	4	3	2
Cauliflower	3	3	2, 3
Celery	5	3	2, 3
Chard	4	3	5, 10
Cilantro	5	3	3
Corn	3	3	2, 3
Cucumber	4	3	3, 10
Daffodil	5	1	
Dahlia	5	1	9
Dianthus	3	2	
Eggplant	4	3	10
Hydrangea	8	3	
Impatiens	5	2	
Iris	4	1	
Lemon Balm	5	3	2
Lettuce	4	3	10
Lily	5	2	5
Marigold	4	2	8
Melon	4	1	2, 8
Mint	4	2	
Mum	5	3	9
Onion	3	3	2, 3, 10
Oregano	3	1	5
Parsley	5	3	2, 3
Pea	5	3	2, 8
Peppers	3	3	2
Petunia	5	2	
Pine	4	2	
Potato	3	3	
Primrose	5	3	
Radish	3	3	3
Rhododendron	5	1	3
Rose	5	3	3, 10
Spinach	4	3	3, 8
Squash	4	3	3, 10
Strawberry	4	3	8, 10
Tomato	4	2	10
Tuber Begonia	5	3	4
Tulip	4	1	
Turnip	4	3	
Watermelon	4	1	2, 8
Zinnia	2	2	8