Measure how much water you use on your garden with the

Water Right Catch Can

Smart Approved WaterMark

Congratulations on buying a Water Right catch can

With your Water Right Catch Can it's easy to measure how much water you put on your garden.

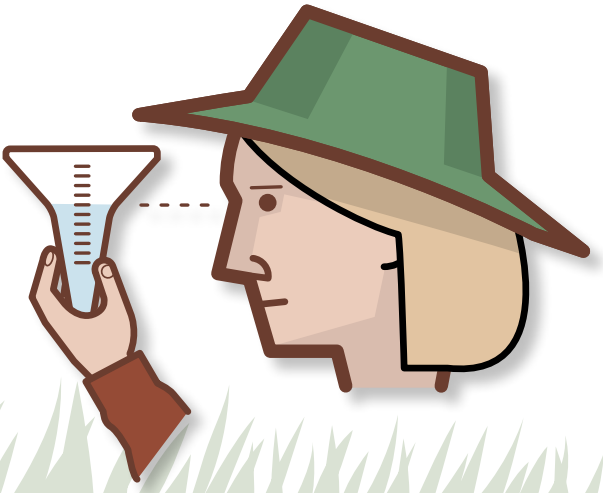
Measuring how much is easy

STEP 1

Place your catch can next to the plants you are watering so that it catches water as you apply it. Take a note of the time and then water your plants as you would normally. When you have finished watering make a note of how long you watered the plants for.

STEP 2

When you have done this pick up your catch can and look for the millimetre (mm) scale (there are two scales; one measures the volume of water in millilitres and the other measures depth of water in millimetres). Hold the can, making sure it is level and, using the mm scale, see how much water has been collected. If you measure 10mm in your catch can and you watered for 10 minutes you are putting on 1mm each minute.



STEP 3 How long should I water?

Now you know how much water you apply when you normally water your garden, you can use the table below to work out if you are using too much, too little or just the right amount.

Of course, how much water your plants need depends on a few things such as plant type, soil and where you live. But the table below is a good guide.

The figures in the table have been developed from data collected by the Bureau of Meteorology over many years. They show how much water plants need, on average, each week of the year. You can see this amount changes with each month. It will also change if the weather is very wet or very dry. This means that while the table is a good guide, it is a good idea to watch your daily weather forecasts too.

And don't forget that your plants are also good at letting you know when they want water with wilted leaves being a sure sign of a thirsty plant!

To use the table look for your city (or the capital city with the climate most similar to the climate where you live) and read the value for the month you wish to water your plants in. As an example if we look in the Brisbane column and the August row we can see that the weekly water demand is 7 mm. In contrast the water required in January is estimated at 14mm per week. So, if you measured 7 mm in your catch can after 15 minutes, you should water your plants for 30 minutes a week in January. Of course, if it is very wet or dry you should adjust this amount. With this guide as a starting point and by watching the weather you will be able to work out how much water to put on your garden.

Approximate average weekly plant water demand (mm) for each month[1]

	BRISBANE	SYDNEY	MELBOURNE	HOBART	ADELAIDE	PERTH	DARWIN
January	14	11	13	10	17	23	14
February	12	8	11	8	14	20	12
March	11	7	9	7	11	18	13
April	8	6	6	0	7	11	14
May	6	0	0	0	0	7	15
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
August	7	0	0	0	0	6	17
September	9	6	6	4	7	8	18
October	11	8	8	6	10	12	17
November	13	10	10	8	13	17	16
December	14	10	12	9	15	21	16

Note: If you put one 10 litre bucket of water over an area measuring 1m by 1m that is the equivalent of 10 mm of irrigation or rainfall.

[1]These values are estimated using long term average pan evaporation figures for each location and a crop factor of 0.3.

Approximate plant water requirement in mm per week. Note this is a guide for average conditions and the actual amount required will vary from site to site. You will need more in a dry season and less water in a wetter season and you should always watch the weather at your place.