

Watering Plants

Water is critical for plant growth but too little or too much is not good.

Outdoor plants. In-ground plants need an inch of water each week, either from rain or supplemental watering. A thorough weekly watering is much more effective than more frequent light waterings. Be sure to water the entire root zone, not just around the base of the plant (for trees, this is to or beyond the dripline). Place a rain gauge or other container in the watering zone to measure the amount of water applied.

Indoor plants. Many factors determine how often to water your houseplants — temperature, the container, amount of light, etc. Generally, water when the soil surface feels dry to the touch. Provide enough water to thoroughly moisten ALL of the soil in the container — it should run out of the bottom (but not sit in the water).



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Additional Resources

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- Article on *Drought and Watering of Ornamental Plants* at <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/drought-and-watering-ornamental-plants/>

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