

HOW TO TEST FOR MOISTURE

1. At the start of every moisture reading session, use the special enclosed pad to gently wipe the entire probe 2-3 times. Be careful not to polish the chrome portion of the probe. Clean only the top.
2. Insert the probe, vertically if possible, into the pot half way between the edge of the container and the plant stem. The depth of penetration will be influenced by the size of the container. Probe deeper in a large pot, shallower in a small one. A good rule of thumb is to probe about 1/2 to 2/3 of the way down from the surface. For very large containers (over 12" in diameter) place the probe closer to the stem (about 1/3 of the way from the stem to the edge of pot.) While pushing the probe into the soil you may note that the meter reading varies as the probe moves downward. This is because the moisture conditions are not uniform. Certain types of soil have a tendency to create moisture pockets, which might give you a false high reading in one small area of the soil. We recommend you take at least two readings in order to confirm your findings. (Note: probing aerates the soil, which is good for the plant.)
3. Note your meter reading.
4. Remove the probe from the soil by pulling the probe handle, not the wire. Tugging the wire may result in a malfunction.
5. Wipe the probe completely clean with a soft cloth or tissue before taking another reading or when finished. Important: The meter is designed and constructed for test readings. The probe should not be left in contact with soil for extended periods of time.

INTERPRETING YOUR READINGS

1. The numbers from 1 to 10 signify increasing soil moisture and plants cannot tolerate either extreme for long. In the table provided, plants are listed alphabetically by their popular names. Check the name of the plant being tested, and look at the guide number listed in the column headed MOISTURE. If the meter reading you received is higher than the guide number, DO NOT WATER. If the number is the same or lower, water as directed.
Example: You are checking a Dumb Cane (Dieffenbachia). The meter reads 4, the guide number is 1. You do not water!
2. The asterisks in the table indicate how often each plant likes water. It is important to adhere to the frequency intervals.
* Check once a week ** Check every 4 to 5 days *** Check every 3 days
3. Special Watering Needs are marked with Roman numerals. They indicate:
 - I. Spray foliage daily
 - II. Never let soil dry out
 - III. Keep soil moist but never soggy
 - IV. Keep soil wet at all times
 - V. Allow soil to dry between watering
 - VI. Soil should remain dry 4-5 days
 - VII. Reduce watering during the plant's dormant period
 - VIII. Water from beneath (in saucer). Never wet foliage

HELPFUL TIPS WHEN USING THE WATERING GUIDE

1. Pot Size: Small pots dry out faster than large ones, so plants in small pots may need to be checked and watered more frequently.
2. Type of Pot: Soil in clay pots dries out faster than soil in plastic containers because baked clay is more porous.
3. Light: Plants in full sunlight dry out faster and use more water than those in partial sunlight or indirect light.
4. Location: Plants close to a radiator or heater will dry out more quickly.
5. Overwatering: This term refers to an excessive frequency of watering, not to the amount of water given. The result of overwatering is, inevitably, rootrot.
6. Cacti and Succulents: These plants store water and require less attention than other plants. From March to September, do not allow the soil to dry out. Water when the meter reads 3. From October to February (dormant period) water moderately every 2-3 weeks, just enough to prevent shriveling. Always water with tepid water. Cold water can severely shock plants.

If you have any questions or difficulties when using the meter, please contact Luster Leaf at info@lusterleaf.com or 800-327-4635. Please do not return your meter to your place of purchase until speaking with us.

Luster Leaf Products, Inc.
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

WATERING AND SPECIAL NEEDS GUIDE

PLANT	MOISTURE	FREQUENCY	SPECIAL NEEDS
AFRICAN VIOLET	3	**	
ALOE	1	*	
AMARYLLIS	3	**	
ANTHURIUM	8	***	I
ARALIA	4	**	
ARROWHEAD VINE	4	**	
ASPARAGUS FERN	6	**	III
AZALEA	8	***	II
BAMBOO PLANT	4	**	
BABY'S TEARS	6	**	
BAY TREE	6	**	I
BEGONIA REX	6	**	VI
BEGONIA	7	***	III
BIRD OF PARADISE	3	*	
BILLBERGIA	6	***	I
BLACK-EYED SUSAN	4	**	III
BLOODLEAF	7	***	III
BLUE AFRICAN LILY	7	**	
BOSTON FERN	6	**	
BOTTLEBRUSH PLANT	6	**	
BOUGAINVILLEES	8	***	II
BROWALIA	F	3	*
BUDDIST PINE	7	**	
BURRO'S TAIL	3	***	
BUXUS	4	**	
BUTTERFLY FLOWER	8	***	II
CALADIUM	7	**	III
CALCEOLARIA	1	*	
CALLA LILY	7	***	VII
CAMELLIA	7	***	I
CAPE COWSLIP	7	**	
CAPE IVY	1	*	
CARDINAL FLOWER	1	*	
CAST IRON PLANT	3	*	
CASTOR OIL PLANT	4	**	
CENTURY PLANT	1	*	
CEROPEGIA	1	*	
CHENILLE PLANT	6	***	I
CHINESE EVERGREEN	4	**	
CHRISTMAS CACTUS	6	**	VII
CHRISTMAS PEPPER	7	***	I, III
CHRYSANTHEMUM	6	**	
CINERARIA	4	**	
CITRUS	1	*	
CLERODENDRUM	7	***	
COFFEE PLANT	7	***	III
COLEUS	6	**	
COLUMNES	7	***	I
COPPERLEAF	6	***	I
CORAL BERRY	7	***	I, III
CORN PLANT	7	***	
CREEPING MOSS	7	***	
CROSSANDRA	7	***	I
CROTON	7	**	
CROWN OF THORNS	3	*	
CRYPTANTYHUS	1	**	
CUPID'S BOWER	6	**	
CYCLAMEN	7	***	VIII
DEVIL'S IVY	4	**	
DIPLADENIA	1	*	VI
DRACAENA (ALL)	7	***	
DUMB CANE	1	*	VI
EASTER LILY	4	**	
ECHEVERIA	1	*	
EGYPTIAN STAR CLUSTER	7	**	
EUONYMUS	1	*	VI
FAT-HEADED LIZZIE	4	**	I
FERNS	6	***	I
FIGS, CREEPING	7	***	I
FIGS, FIDDLE LEAF	1	*	VI
FIGS, WEEPING	4	**	
FINGERNAIL PLANT	7	**	
FIRECRACKER PLANT	7	**	II
FLAME OF THE WOODS	7	**	
FLAMING KATY	1	*	VI
FLOWERING MAPLE	7	***	
FRIENDSHIP PLANT	6	*	
FUCHSIA	7	***	I
GARDENIA	8	***	I, II
GERANIUM	1	**	VI
GLORY LILY	4	**	
GLOXINIA	7	**	VIII
GOLD-DUST PLANT	1	*	
GRAPE IVY	4	**	VI
HEDERA IVY	6	**	

PLANT	MOISTURE	FREQUENCY	SPECIAL NEEDS
HELIOTROPE	7	**	
HEN-AND-CHICKEN	1	*	
HIBISCUS	4	*	
HYACINTH	8	***	III, VI
IMPATIENS WALLERANIA	7	**	VI
INCH PLANT	1	**	VI
JACARANDA	6	**	I
JADE PLANT	1	*	VI
JACOBINIA	7	***	
JAPANESE SEDGE	7	***	III
JASMINE	7	***	
JASMINE PLANT	8	***	I
JELLY BEAN PLANT	1	*	
JERUSALEM CHERRY	3	**	
JESSAMINE	7	***	
KALANCHOE	1	*	VI
KAFIR LILY	1	*	VI
KANGAROO THORN	6	**	
KENTIA PALM	6	**	
LADY PALM	8	**	
LANTANA	1	*	VI
LIPSTICK VINE	7	**	
LUCKY CLOVER	1	*	
MAIDENHAIR FERN	6	***	III
MONSTERA	4	**	
MOSAIC PLANT	7	**	
MOSES-IN-THE-CRADLE	7	**	III
MYRTLE	1	*	
NARCISSUS	7	**	
NASTURTIUM	7	**	
NATAL PLUM	6	**	
NICODEMIA (INDOOR OAK)	4	*	
NICOTIANA	7	**	
NORFOLK ISLAND PINE	4	**	
OLEANDER	7	**	
ORCHID	1	**	VI
PAINTERS PALETTE	8	**	
PANDA PLANT	1	*	VI
PARASOL PLANT	4	*	I
PARLOUR PLANT	7	**	
PASSION FLOWER	7	***	III
PEACE LILY	8	***	I
PEPEROMIA	1	**	
PHILODENDRON	4	*	
PIGGYBACK PLANT	6	**	III
PIGMY DATE PALM	8	***	VII
PILES (ALUMINIUM PLANT)	6	**	
PLUME FLOWER	7	**	III
POINSETTIA	1	*	VI
POLYSCIAS	6	**	
PONY TAIL	1	*	
PRAYER PLANT	7	**	I
PRIMULA	7	**	III
RABBIT'S FOOT FERN	7	**	
RUBBER PLANT	4	*	
SENSITIVE PLANT	7	***	I
SENTRY PALM	6	**	
SHRIMP PLANT	1	*	VI
SIDERASIS	1	*	
SILK OAK	4	*	
SNAKE PLANT	1	*	VI
SNAKESKIN PLANT	4	**	I
SPIDER PLANT	7	**	
STAR-OF-BETHEHAM	7	**	
STRAWBERRY GERANIUM	1	**	
SUGAR ALMOND PLANT	1	*	VI
SWEDISH IVY	4	**	
SWEET FLAG	8	***	IV
TABLE FERN	8	**	
TEMPLE BELLS	7	**	
TILLANDSIA	7	**	
UMBRELLA PLANT	10	***	
UMBRELLA TREE	1	**	VI
VASE PLANT	7	**	
VELVET PLANT	7	**	I
VELTHEIMIA	7	***	
VENUS FLYTRAP	10	**	
VERBENA	1	*	
VIOLET FLAME	7	**	
VRIESIA	1	**	
WANDERING JEW	1	*	VI
WAX PLANT	4	*	I
WOOD-ROSE	6	***	I
YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW	6	**	
ZERBRA PLANT	7	**	VII