

Water Saving Irrigation

“Watering is the most important task you face to reach the goals you wish to achieve as a gardener.”

Bruce Williams

Important points:

- You can't tell by looking -- Use a water meter on all plants and shrubs
- Use a rain gauge
- Know your soil
- Know the needs of specific plants
- Know the location of YOUR garden -- What does that mean for you?
- Know your garden slope
- Enough water pressure
- ***Backflow preventer***
- ***Pressure regulator***
- NO line over 100 feet long due to pressure loss
- Measure Twice & Cut Once
- Monitor soil moisture after installation to assure all plants are receiving what they need and no more than they need!
- Overwatering is as bad for the plant as lack of water

TO MEASURE YOUR WATER PRESSURE:

Seconds to fill a * 1 Gallon Container	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
GPH	720	600	514	450	400	360	327	300	277	257

*** If filling a 5 gallon container multiply the GPH x 5**

Determining Soil Texture

By feel:

sticky = clay
smooth = silt
gritty = sand



size

Using the jar method:

1. Fill a 1-quart jar $\frac{1}{4}$ full of soil
2. Fill the jar with water to $\frac{3}{4}$ full
3. Add 1 teaspoon of dishwashing detergent
4. Shake very well to suspend soil
5. Place on a flat surface and allow soil to settle for 2 days
6. Measure % thickness of each layer relative to all



Zen and the Art of Watering Mindfully

Bruce Williams

January 7, 2022

Follow these six steps to establish habits that will enable you to practice watering mindfully:

1. **Pay Attention** – Look at the color of the surface of the soil. Examine the foliage of your plant, or the color of the leaves and buds.
2. **Find Joy in Simple Acts** – Think about the benefits your interaction with your plants provides you. Feeling the cool moisture when you stick your finger in the soil can be refreshing.
3. **Accept Yourself** – If you can only water in the morning, accept this limitation without guilt. You can use shade, mulch, or other techniques to keep plants moist in hot conditions.
4. **Focus on your Breath** – Take the time to smell your tree, many conifers can be quite aromatic. All plants have some odor, not only flower blossoms. Take three breaths while emptying your mind and focusing on your present self.
5. **Sitting Meditation** – Position yourself or your plant to make it easy to comfortably contemplate your plant. Realize that taking time to just relax is going to benefit both you and the health of your plant.
6. **Walking Meditation** – Allow the acts of turning on a hose, carrying a hose, carrying a watering can or walking through a gentle rain to consume your entire thought process. Count each step and focus on how you enjoy what you are doing.

Suppliers of Irrigation Equipment

Please note: These are suggestions. Washington State University and the King County Master Gardeners DO NOT specifically recommend any vendor

Online:

- <https://sprinklersupplystore.com/>
- <https://www.rainbird.com/>
- <https://www.dripworks.com/> (They have how-to videos and a gallery of plans)

Local:

Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Supply

Seattle (6.8 mi.)

751 S Michigan St
Seattle, WA 98108-2636
(206)401-9835
branch176@ewingirrigation.com

Hours

Mon-Fri: 7am - 4pm
Sat-Sun: Closed

Kirkland (11.9 mi.)

815 8th St.
Kirkland, WA 98033-5624
(425)576-9540
branch139@ewingirrigation.com

Hours

Mon-Fri: 7am - 5pm
Sat: 7am - 11am

Tacoma (23.5 mi.)

2901 S. Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA 98409-4718
(253)476-9530
branch136@ewingirrigation.com

Hours

Mon-Fri: 7am - 4pm
Sat-Sun: Closed

Horizon

955 Lind Ave SW
Renton, WA 98057

Phone: 425.277.2525

Fax: 425.277.2929

Email: mgrhoz540@horizononline.com

Mon-Fri Hours: 7am - 5pm

Site One Landscape Supply

633 Central Ave S
Kent, WA 98032-6110

[253-656-4726](tel:253-656-4726)

Mon – Fri 7:30 am-4:00 pm

Big box stores for kits

Lowes

Home Depot

McClendon's

Ace Hardware