

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR NEW METER

The Rapitest Moisture Meter is an invaluable tool for the hobby gardener. The meter is supplied ready for use. It does not require batteries.

HOW TO TEST FOR MOISTURE

1. 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 the pot.)
2. 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.

LIMITED WARRANTY

The tester is warranted free from defects for one year from date of purchase. During this period the unit may be returned to Luster Leaf Products, Inc. with proof of purchase and \$5.00 to cover postage and handling. It will be repaired or replaced. During the initial 90 days of this warranty period the selling dealer is also authorized to replace a defective meter.

This warranty does not cover abuse, accidental damage, repair by anyone other than Luster Leaf Products, Inc., or consequential loss or inconvenience resulting from use of the meter.

This warranty gives you certain specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

SERVICE

If adjustment or repair becomes necessary after the warranty expires, return the meter to Luster Leaf Products, Inc. with \$10.00 to cover postage, handling and service. Service includes labor & parts as required, except for replacement of externally damaged or lost components.

For service, or information regarding other Luster Leaf Products, Inc. items, please address:

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