



# rapitest<sup>®</sup>

# Digital<sup>®</sup> MOISTURE METER

**BEFORE USING YOUR NEW MOISTURE METER:**

For reliable soil moisture readings, be sure to polish the probe shaft (not the tip) and acclimate the probe in the soil before recording a soil moisture reading.

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

## HOW TO USE YOUR METER

1. Press the Power Button to turn the unit on and off.
2. At the start of every moisture reading session, use the special enclosed pad to gently wipe the entire probe 2 - 3 times.
3. Insert the probe, vertically if possible, into the pot half way between the edge of the container and the plant stem. In potted plants the depth of penetration will be influenced by the size of the container; probe deeper in a larger pot, shallower in a smaller one. A good rule of thumb is to probe about 1/2 to 2/3 of the way down from the surface. For 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.)
4. While pushing the probe into the soil you may note that the meter reading varies as the probe moves downward. This is because the soil 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 small areas 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.)
5. Note your meter reading when the LCD display remains constant for about 4 - 6 seconds.
6. Remove the probe from the soil.
7. Wipe the probe clean with a soft cloth or tissue before taking another reading and when testing is completed.

### IMPORTANT:

- The meter is designed and constructed for test readings. The probe should not be left in contact with moisture for extended periods of time. Do not store or leave your meter probe in the soil.
- The meter will turn itself off after about 2 minutes of inactivity. If the meter has turned itself off, press the power button to re-start.

## INTERPRETING YOUR READINGS

1. The numbers from 1 to 9.9 signify increasing wetness and plants can not tolerate either extreme for long. Plants are listed alphabetically by their popular names in the table provided. Check the name of the plant being tested, and look at the guide number listed in the column immediately to the right. 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. It is important to adhere to the **FREQUENCY** intervals. The asterisks in the table indicate how often each plant likes water:
  - \* Check once a week
  - \*\* Check every 4 to 5 days
  - \*\*\* Check every 3 days.
3. **SPECIAL WATERING NEEDS** marked with Roman numerals.
  - 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 dormant period.
  - VIII - Water from beneath ( in saucer ).  
Never wet foliage.



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### HELPFUL TIPS:

Please keep in mind when using the information in 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, vent or heater will dry out more quickly.
5. Overwatering refers to an excessive frequency of watering, not to the amount of water at a given time. The result of overwatering is, inevitably, root rot.

### 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 ) moderately water every 2-3 weeks, just enough to prevent shriveling. Always use tepid water; cold water can severely shock plants.

### LAWNS:

The greatest disservice you can do to your lawn is to water too lightly. Too little water will not accommodate the grass roots. If light watering occurs frequently, the roots will start to climb toward the surface seeking moisture. This results in burning, particularly during hot weather. The heaviest root concentrations are usually 2 to 3" below the ground level of your lawn. Therefore, you should probe about 3" below the surface. A meter reading of 5 would indicate a satisfactory watering. Provided that your lawn has reasonably good drainage, it is virtually impossible to over-water.

### GARDENS:

Most experts agree that plants should never be allowed to dry to their "wilting point". The following lists for Vegetables and Landscape plants give suggested approximate readings that indicate that the wilt point is near. Watering is recommended when your test readings coincide with our recommendations. When you do water, water thoroughly. Root depths vary greatly with different plants and vegetables. When you check the soil moisture level after watering, the meter should read 10. This would indicate sufficient water has seeped down. In soils with poor drainage ( too much clay ) allow about 15 to 30 minutes before checking.

### SOIL:

The readings given are for the average garden loam. Technically, loam is a soil that has characteristics roughly midway between those of sandy soil and clay soil. It is a mixture of sand, clay, silt and, if fertile, contains a good proportion of organic material (humus). Humus is the name given to all decayed organic matter, whether plant or animal in origin. It is a vital component of fertile soils. If your soil conforms to the this description, use the Wilt Point numbers as indicated. If your soil is more on the sandy side, add one number to the number in the table. If your soil has a higher percentage of clay, subtract one number from the number in the table.

Use only fresh alkaline button cell batteries: A76 / LR44 / AG13 / L1154

**Special Cleaning Pad**  
Additional pads are available at a cost of \$2.00 for 3 pads, plus \$1.00 for postage & handling.

Please send a check or money order, payable to:  
**Luster Leaf Products, Inc.**  
2220 Techcourt  
Woodstock, Illinois 60098



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**VEGETABLE WILT POINTS**

Artichoke	3-4
Asparagus	3-4
Beans	2-3
Beets	3-4
Broccoli	2-3
Cabbage	3-4
Carrots	2-3
Cauliflower	3-4
Celery	4-5
Chard	3-4
Corn	2-3
Cucumbers	3-4
Eggplant	3-4
Lettuce	3-4
Onions	2-3
Peas	2-3
Peppers	2-3
Potatoes	2-3
Radishes	2-3
Spinach	3-4
Squash	3-4
Tomatoes	3-4
Turnips	3-4

**LANDSCAPE PLANT WILT POINTS**

Bamboo	4-5
Cannas	3-4
Daffodils	4-5
Dahlias	4-5
Iris	3-4
Lilies	4-5
Palms	3-4
Pines	3-4
Primroses	4-5
Rhododendrons	4-5
Roses	4-5
Succulents	2-3
Tuberous Begonias	4-5
Tulips	3-4

**WATERING GUIDE AND TABLE**

African Violet	3**
Aloe	1*
Amaryllis	3**
Anthurium	8***I
Aralia	4**
Arrowhead Vine	4**
Asparagus Fern	6**III
Azalea	8***II
Baby's Tears	6**
Bamboo Plant	4**
Bay Tree	6**I
Begonia	7***III
Begonia Rex	6**VI
Billbergia	6***I
Bird of Paradise	3*
Black-Eyed Susan	4**III
Bloodleaf	7***III
Blue African Lily	7**
Boston Fern	6**
Bottlebrush Plant	6**

Bougainvillea	8***II
Browallia	3*
Buddhist 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	9***I
Columnnea	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*
Cryptanthus	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**

Heliotrope	7**
Hen-and Chicken	1*
Hibiscus	4*
Hyacinth	8***III, VI
Impatiens	
Walleriana	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**
Mosses-in-the-Cradle	7**III
Myrtle	1*
Narcissus	7**
Nasturtium	7**
Natal Palm	6**
Nasturtium	7**
Natal Palm	6**
Nicodemia	4*
Nicotinia	7**
Norfolk Island Pine	4**
Oleander	7**
Orchid	1**VI
Painter's Palette	8**
Panda Plant	1*V
Parasol Plant	4*I
Parlour Palm	7**
Passion Flower	7***III
Peace Lily	8***I
Peperomia	1**
Philodendron	4*
Piggyback Plant	6**III
Pigmy Date Palm	8***VII
Piles	
(Aluminum Plant)	6**
Plume Flower	7**III
Poinsettia	1*VI
Polyscias	6**
Pony Tail	1*
Pothos	4**
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-Bethlehem	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	9.9***
Umbrella Tree	1**VI
Vase Plant	7**
Veltheimia	7***
Venus Flytrap	9.9***
Verbena	1*
Violet Flame	7**
Vriesia	1**
Wandering Jew	1*VI
Wax Plant	4*I
Wood-Rose	6***I
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow	6**
Zebra Plant	7**VII

**INDICATORS:**

moisture level	1-10
frequency intervals	*
special watering needs	I - VIII

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