

# rapitest® Moisture 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. In potted plants, the depth of penetration will be influenced by the size of the container. Probe deeper in a large 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 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, in time, 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 moisture for extended periods of time.

## Interpreting Your Readings

1. The numbers from 1 to 10 signify increasing wetness and no plants can tolerate the two extremes 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: \* Check once a week, \*\* Check every 4 to 5 days, \*\*\* Check every 3 days. It is important to adhere to the FREQUENCY intervals.

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 dormant period.
- VIII Water from beneath (in saucer.) Never wet foliage.

**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 than 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 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) water moderately every 2-3 weeks, just enough to prevent shriveling. Always water with tepid water. Cold water can severely shock plants.

## Watering Guide and Table

PLANT	MOISTURE	FREQUENCY	SPECIAL NEEDS	PLANT	MOISTURE	FREQUENCY	SPECIAL NEEDS
African Violet	3	**		Heliotrope	7	**	
Aloe	1	*		Hen-and-Chicken	1	*	
Amaryllis	3	**		Hibiscus	4	*	
Anthurium	8	**	I	Hyacinth	8	***	III, VI
Aralia	4	**		Impatiens Walleriana	7	**	VI
Arrowhead Vine	4	**		Inch Plant	1	**	VI
Asparagus Fern	6	**	III	Jacaranda	6	**	I
Azalea	8	***	II	Jade Plant	1	*	VI
Bamboo Plant	4	**		Jacobinia	7	***	
Baby's Tears	6	**		Japanese Sedge	7	***	III
Bay Tree	6	**	I	Jasmine	7	***	
Begonia Rex	6	**	VI	Jasmine Plant	8	***	I
Begonia	7	***	III	Jelly Bean Plant	1	*	
Bird of Paradise	3	*		Jerusalem Cherry	3	**	
Billbergia	6	***	I	Jessamine	7	***	
Black-eyed Susan	4	**	III	Kalanchoe	1	*	VI
Bloodleaf	7	***	III	Kafir Lily	1	*	VI
Blue African Lily	7	**		Kangaroo Thorn	6	**	
Boston Fern	6	**		Kentia Palm	6	**	
Bottlebrush Plant	6	**		Lady Palm	8	**	
Bougainvillea	8	***	II	Lantana	1	*	VI
Browallia	3	*		Lipstick Vine	7	**	
Buddist Pine	7	**		Lucky Clover	1	*	
Burro's Tail	3	***		Maidenhair Fern	6	***	III
Buxus	4	**		Monstera	4	**	
Butterfly Flower	8	***	II	Mosaic Plant	7	**	
Caladium	7	**	III	Mosses-in-the-Cradle	7	**	III
Calceolaria	1	*		Myrtle	1	*	
Calla Lily	7	***	VII	Narcissus	7	**	
Camellia	7	***	I	Nasturtium	7	**	
Cape cowslip	7	**		Natal Plum	6	**	
Cape Ivy	1	*		Nicodemia (Indoor Oak)	4	*	
Cardinal Flower	1	*		Nicotiana	7	**	
Cast Iron Plant	3	*		Norfolk Island Pine	4	**	
Castor Oil Plant	4	**		Oleander	7	**	
Century Plant	1	*		Orchid	1	**	VI
Ceropegia	1	*		Painters Palette	8	**	
Chenille Plant	6	***	I	Panda Plant	1	*	VI
Chinese Evergreen	4	**		Parasol Plant	4	*	I
Christmas Cactus	6	**	VII	Parlour Palm	7	**	
Christmas Pepper	7	***	I, III	Passion Flower	7	***	III
Chrysanthemum	6	**		Peace Lily	8	***	I
Cineraria	4	**		Peperomia	1	**	
Citrus	1	*		Philodendron	4	*	
Clerodendrum	7	***		Piggyback Plant	6	**	III
Coffee Plant	7	***	III	Pigmy Date Palm	8	***	VII
Coleus	6	**		Piles (Aluminum Plant)	6	**	
Columnes	7	***	I	Plume Flower	7	**	III
Copperleaf	6	***	I	Poinsettia	1	*	VI
Coral Berry	7	***	I, III	Polyscias	6	**	
Corn Plant	7	***		Pony Tail	1	*	
Creeping Moss	7	***		Prayer Plant	7	**	I
Crossandra	7	***	I	Primula	7	**	III
Croton	7	**		Rabbit's Foot Fern	7	**	
Crown of Thorns	3	*		Rubber Plant	4	*	
Cryptanthus	1	**		Sensitive Plant	7	***	I
Cupid's Bower	6	**		Sentry Palm	6	**	
Cyclamen	7	***	VIII	Shrimp Plant	1	*	VI
Devil's Ivy	4	**		Siderasis	1	*	
Dipladenia	1	*	VI	Silk Oak	4	*	
Dracaena (all)	7	***		Snake Plant	1	*	VI
Dumb Cane	1	*	VI	Snakeskin Plant	4	**	I
Easter Lily	4	**		Spider Plant	7	**	
Echeveria	1	**		Star-of-Bethlehem	7	**	
Egyptian Star Cluster	7	**		Strawberry Geranium	1	**	
Euonymus	1	*	VI	Sugar Almond Plant	1	*	VI
Fat-headed Lizzie	4	***	I	Swedish Ivy	4	**	
Ferns	6	**	I	Sweet Flag	8	**	IV
Figs, Creeping	7	***	I	Table Fern	8	**	
Figs, Fiddle Leaf	1	*	VI	Temple Bells	7	**	
Figs, Weeping	4	**		Tillandsia	7	**	
Fingernail Plant	7	**		Umbrella Plant	10	***	
Firecracker Plant	7	**	II	Umbrella Tree	1	**	VI
Flame of the Woods	7	**		Vase Plant	7	**	
Flaming Katy	1	*	VI	Velvet Plant	7	**	I
Flowering Maple	7	***		Veltheimia	7	***	
Friendship Plant	6	**		Venus Flytrap	10	**	
Fuchsia	7	***	I	Verbena	1	*	
Gardenia	8	***	I, II	Violet Flame	7	**	
Geranium	1	**	VI	Vriesia	1	*	
Glory Lily	4	**		Wandering Jew	1	**	VI
Gloxinia	7	**	VIII	Wax Plant	4	*	I
Gold-Dust Plant	1	*		Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow	6	***	I
Grape Ivy	4	**	VI	Zebra Plant	7	**	VII
Hedera Ivy	6	**					