

Hort Tips and News

Sandy Welches, MGV 2005

How much is an inch of water?

Applying an inch of water with a hose is the same as getting an inch of rain. In other words, it means that if you had a rain gauge at the surface of the soil while you were watering, you would be done when that gauge filled up to the one-inch mark. When you're watering with a hose and want to apply an inch of water, an easy way to figure out when you've reached your goal is to put a shallow can that is one inch tall (like a tuna fish can) in the middle of the area that you're watering and apply water evenly across the area until the can fills.

If you're using a 1-gallon watering can, then you need to fill it up 5 times to cover just a little bit more than a square yard of soil with an inch of water. Those 5 watering cans are almost exactly what needs to be applied to newly-planted young trees every week.

One thing to keep in mind is that having an inch of water applied to the soil for healthy plants is a good guideline, but it might be either too much or too little depending on the situation. In very sandy soil, more water might be needed, or less in clay soil. As for containers, the concept of applying an inch of water isn't very meaningful because they should be watered to saturation.

Gillman, J. (2017, October). Healthy Garden. Fine Gardening, p.22



photo: www.stonelantern.com



www.homedepot.com

A tool bucket favorite

One of my favorite gardening tools is a grease pencil. I use it to highlight hard-to-see measurements on my pump sprayer, write on spray bottles to ID contents, and make plant labels from sticks or rocks. **A grease pencil is water resistant, inexpensive, and ideal for so many uses.**

Parks, K. (2017, October). Readers' Tips. Fine Gardening, p. 12



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