

Benefits:

- Less chance of under- or over-watering
- Watering can be tailored and focused
- Keeps foliage dry; reduce chance of fungal disease
- Regular, up-close checks help to catch other issues
- Less equipment to maintain

Find your flow:

1. Turn all water off in the house
2. Place a bucket or other known-volume vessel under your spigot (or watering device)
3. Quickly turn on spigot so it is fully open & start your stop watch
4. Record how many seconds it took to fill your vessel

Calculate your flow

5-gallon bucket example:

$$\frac{5 \text{ gallons}}{\textit{Time to fill (seconds)}} \times \frac{60 \text{ seconds}}{1 \text{ minute}} = \frac{\textit{Flow in Gallons}}{1 \text{ minute}}$$

$$\frac{5 \text{ gallons}}{100 \text{ seconds}} \times \frac{60 \text{ seconds}}{1 \text{ minute}} = \frac{3 \text{ gallons}}{1 \text{ minute}}$$

3 gallons per minute => 1 gal per 20 sec, ½ gal per 10 sec

3 gallons per minute = 180 gallons per hour

How long to water?

Use plant's supplemental water needs per season and divide across watering season

Ex: 10 gallons per season \Rightarrow 0.4 gal per week (25-week season)

If watering 2x per week \Rightarrow 0.2 gallons per day

Using our example calculation:

\Rightarrow water for about 4 seconds

***Note:** 10 gal/season is water demand at maturity – new plants need more water to establish

Hand watering is not an exact science

- Check soil moisture before watering
 - Screwdriver test to check soil moisture
- Water less frequently over time (as plant establishes)