

Greenhouse Watering Lab

Do you often find your plants to be wilting from not enough water? Or maybe the opposite, they are drowning from too much water and turning yellow or have algae problems. Watering can be a very different task to get correctly. It is important to know the water needs of each plant you are trying to grow. It is also important to water evenly and correctly so that some plants do not dry out faster than others.

Things Needed:

606 Cell Pack Tray inside a webbed tray or similar

Premoistened Soil

Hard Plastic Disposable Cups (must be very durable cups to support weight of the tray)

Watering Wand/ Watering Can

Steps:

1. Fill the entire flat with premoistened soil
2. Place 8-10 hard plastic cups under the flat
 - a. You want them to be spread out evenly, from each corner and throughout center
3. Use a watering wand to evenly water the entire tray
 - a. Stop once you think you have the entire tray watered evenly
4. Remove the tray from the cups and place to the side
5. Record your observations

Questions:

1. What were your observations? How many of the cups had the same amount of water?
2. Did the cups along the edge of the tray have more of less water than the ones hidden in the center? Why do you think this happened?
3. How much water was in each cup? Why do you the soil didn't absorb all the water?
4. What steps should you make to improve your ability to water evenly?

This is a free resource provided by Georgia Agricultural Education
Original creator: Melissa Riley, Central Region Horticulture Teacher

