

## Does Your System Measure Up? Record Sheet For Conducting a Catch-Can Test

Use this record sheet to conduct a simple catch-can test and find out how much water your sprinkler system applies. This will help you determine if you need to alter the system or make time clock adjustments to prevent over- or underwatering your landscape.

### Supplies:

- Twenty (20) straight-sided containers of the same size
- Ruler
- Stopwatch, watch or kitchen timer
- This record sheet
- A pen or pencil

**Step 1:** Place the containers randomly underneath the spray pattern of one zone. You will need to repeat these steps in each zone.

**Step 2:** Turn on the sprinklers in that zone for 15 minutes.

**Step 3:** Turn off the sprinklers and measure the depth of the water you collected in each container.

**Step 4:** Record the amount of water (in inches) that you collected for each container.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total of All Containers in Inches** \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 5:** Compare each container's water content to determine if the amount is the same between them. If any discrepancies exist, changes will need to be made to sprinklers or piping so that the water is applied uniformly in the zone. *Alterations need to be finished prior to continuing.*

Some questions to ask yourself:

- a. Are there areas receiving much more water than others? Much less water?
- b. Do any sprinklers need to be added or changed so that water is applied evenly?
- c. Are sprinklers throwing water over 80 percent or more of the distance to adjacent sprinkler heads?

**Step 6:** Add all container measurements together and divide by the number of containers to obtain the average depth of the containers in that zone.

\_\_\_\_\_ ÷ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total of all containers ÷ number of containers used = zone's average water depth in inches**

**Step 7:** Multiply the zone's average water depth by four to obtain the zone's hourly rate of application.

\_\_\_\_\_ X 4 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Zone's average water depth X 4 = zone's hourly application rate in inches per hour**

**Step 8:** Determine if you are overwatering or underwatering within the zone. Most plants and lawns require only ½" to ¾" of water when plants show signs of stress. Using the zone's hourly application rate, consult the guide below to determine how long it will take to apply ¾" of water.

Zone's hourly application rate	0.5"/hr.	1.0"/hr.	1.5"/hr.	2.0"/hr.
Amount of time to run each zone to deliver ¾"	90 min. run time	45 min. run time	30 min. run time	23 min. run time

**Step 9:** adjust your sprinkler system timer to deliver the appropriate amount of water for the zone.

**Step 10:** Repeat for each zone. The catch-can test should be repeated any time the sprinkler system experiences changes, such as the addition of sprinklers, valve replacement, or water source change.