

When To Water

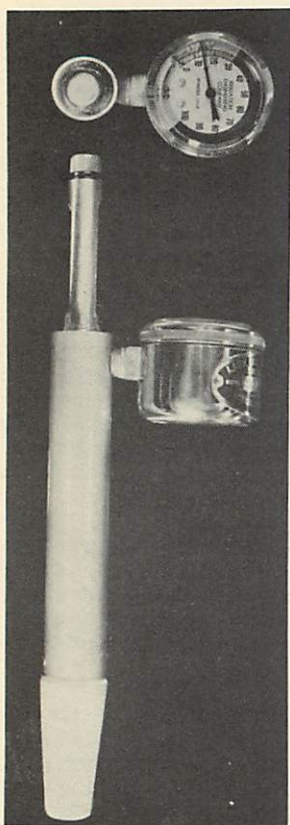


Figure 1. The Lark soil moisture tensiometer reading in centimeters of water divided by 10.

3 1/2
7
10 1/2

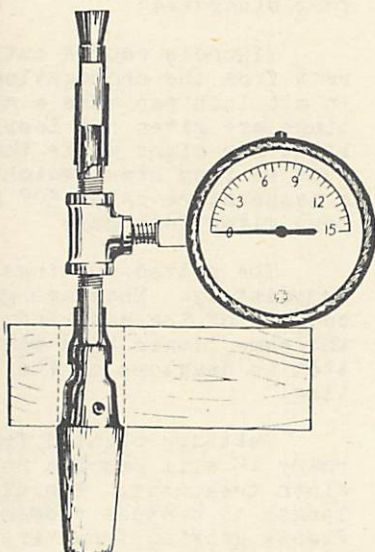


Figure 2. A soil moisture tensiometer with readings in inches of mercury. (units of mercury)

= 1
= 2
= 3

The new well-constructed and durable Lark soil tensiometer (Figure 1) works the same as the one in Figure 2, but you can see that the dial is numbered from 0 to 100. The capillary tension on this gauge is given in centimeters of water divided by ten (these units of tension are in common use in California). To convert these readings to inches of mercury (the figure with which most growers are familiar), simply divide by 3.45.

Water the soil when the reading reaches 10 or 11 on the new gauge.

Disregard the fact that the dial says "wet" up to 30. This moisture designation is for use out-of-doors where it is not possible to keep the soil as moist as it should be in the greenhouse to get maximum growth, production, and quality of commercial cut flowers.

The Lark soil moisture tensiometer may be purchased from the Irrigation Engineering Co., Post Office Box 371, Riverside, California or the Lord & Burnham Co., Irvington, New York.

John G. Seeley