



When to Water

It is strongly recommended to water grass and other landscaping in the early morning, but why? Does it really make that much difference? This activity might help you figure that out.

For this activity you need:

- A measuring cup
- A shallow container, like a pie tin
- A spot outside, (a sunny spot on the grass would be best)

In the early morning, (before 8:00, but earlier is better) find a place outside, preferably a spot that is sunny all day, but anywhere outside is fine. Use your measuring cup to measure 1 cup (8 ounces) of water. Place the pie tin (or other shallow container) in your spot outside, and pour in the cup of water. Set a timer for 4 hours, and let it sit there. If you have outdoor pets, make sure that they will not drink the water. When the timer goes off, go back to your pie tin and pour any water that it left back into the measuring cup. How much water is left?

Now, refill the measuring cup so that you have 1 full cup (8 ounces) of water. Pour this back into your pie tin and leave it there for another 4 hours. Set a timer to remind you. When the timer goes off, go back to your pie tin. Again, pour any water that is left back into the measuring cup. How much water is left this time? How does this compare to the water that was left out in the morning?

While you're waiting for the timer, you can try this too:

For this activity you need:

- A cup of water
- A tablespoon measure
- A stopwatch (you can use your phone)
- Weather app
- Paper or your science journal

Take your materials outside to the pavement (sidewalk, driveway, parking lot). Measure one tablespoon of water and pour it on the pavement. Use your stopwatch to time how long it takes the water to dry up. Record the time you pour the water, the temperature (use your weather app) and how long it takes the water to evaporate in your science journal or on your paper. Try





this again every hour or so. Does the amount of time it takes for the water to dry change? If it does change, why does it take more or less time?

Report back to your family and discuss the results. These questions can help guide your discussion:

- What was different about the two tests?
- What happened to the water?
- What was the weather like? Does this affect the results of the test?
- Will results be different at different times of year?
- Does this tell you anything about when it is best to water grass and other landscaping?
- Will this change the way you water plants? How?

For more information about watering your outdoor plants, and using water wisely, go to <http://www.ocwatersmartgardens.com/Watering-Guide/>
<http://www.ocwatersmartgardens.com/Best/waterwisely.php>
<http://www.ocwatersmartgardens.com/Best/drought.php>
<https://www.mwdoc.com/save-water/resources/residential-resources/smart-irrigation-timers/>
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