



## Make a rain gauge

Here are simple instructions on how to make your own rain gauge from stuff in your house. This is not as accurate as some that you can buy that record to 1/100th of an inch, but it will give you an idea of how much precipitation you get. Then you can decide whether or not you need to give your plants additional water.

Materials: Flat bottom jar, ruler, marker

1. Find a flat bottom jar. I found mine in the recycling bins: one plastic, one glass. Either should work fine.
2. Use a ruler, and mark a scale on the side. Make sure that your ruler starts at zero and put it inside the container. You can use centimeters or inches, it's up to you!



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3. When the rain gauge is outside, it needs to stay stable and level.
  - a. You can glue it to a large board. I used Gorilla Glue to attach the glass gauge to a wood board, Have an adult help if you're going to use Gorilla Glue!



- b. You can attach it to a stake in the ground. I used zipties to attach the plastic gauge to a long stick that is pushed deep into the garden bed.



#### How to use your rain gauge.

1. Find a flat place in the yard or garden to place your gauge.
2. After it rains, read on the scale the amount of water you collected.
3. Decide if you need to irrigate or not. Different plants need different amounts of water so research that information.
4. After reading the gauge and recording your measurement, pour out the water so that it will be ready for the next time it rains.