

Shade and moisture in small gardens

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Fictional teaching text

Question

How does partial shade change watering needs in planted containers?

Purpose and method

The teaching text describes a four-week observation of twelve planted containers. Six were placed in morning sun and six in partial shade. The same container size and soil mix were used throughout.

Each container was weighed before watering. Observers recorded the weather and the amount of added water on a shared sheet.

Main findings

The shaded group generally needed less added water during warm afternoons. Differences were smaller after cool or rainy days.

The author treats the pattern as a local observation rather than a universal watering rule. Leaf area and wind exposure were not measured precisely.

Use in practice

A gardener could repeat the weighing method with their own containers. The useful result is a record of change over time, rather than a fixed number of days between watering.

The text recommends checking drainage before increasing water. Wet roots and dry leaves can occur at the same time.

Limitations

- Only one garden and one season were observed.
- The containers were not randomly reassigned between positions.

Discussion

- Which variable would you control more carefully in a second trial?
- How could the findings change during a cooler month?