

WATERING A VEGETABLE GARDEN

Vegetable gardens need approximately 1 inch of water per week.

When temperatures are 90 degrees or above for a sustained period of time, plants may require up to 2 inches of rain per week.

Adding compost and mulching around plants helps to retain soil moisture. Mulching materials may include grass clippings, leaves, straw and wood chips.

City of Akron bills water in CCF = centum cubic feet

One CCF is 100 cubic feet of water = 748 gallons of water

A rain barrel holds 55 gallons and an IBC container holds 275 gallons of water

Here are 2 ways to determine how much water your garden will need:

While an inch of rainfall doesn't sound like much, an inch of rainfall covering a garden that is 20' x 10' (200 square feet) is equivalent to approximately 125 gallons of water. For a rough estimate of how much water your garden requires, use 5 gallons of water per 8 square feet.

SOURCE: <https://veggieharvest.com/info/irrigation.html>

One inch of rain is a lot of water. For a 100 square-foot area, one inch of rain is 62 gallons. Figure out the actual size of your garden by measuring length and width in feet. Multiply those numbers to get total square footage. If a garden is 20 feet by 30 feet (600 square feet), after a week without rain, it would need 372 gallons of water.

SOURCE:

<https://extension.umn.edu/water-wisely-start-your-own-backyard/watering-vegetable-garden#many-ways-to-irrigate-869313>

This calculator will help you determine how much rain a rain barrel will collect.

<https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/rain-barrel-for-rainwater-collection/5497.html>

Example: a rain barrel attached to a 10' x 10' shed will catch 31 gallons with a ½ inch rainfall

Akron WaterWays Renewed: Akron Rain Barrel Program gives away vouchers for free rain barrels at their annual Blue Heron Homecoming event. This year it will take place on June 19, 2020. This is the link for more information plus a video on how to install the rain barrel kit they provide and to make a rain barrel stand from cinder blocks:

<https://www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com/community/rain-barrel-program.aspx>

Rain gauges are a simple tool to track rainfall in the garden. At a community garden this would need to be maintained on a weekly basis and recorded in a central location so that all the gardeners would know how much rain the garden received that week. This article highlights different kinds of rain gauges and some other factors to consider when measuring rainfall:

<https://gardenerspath.com/how-to/hacks/use-rain-gauge/>