

Drench Recommendations for Containerized Ornamentals

Technical Sheet

Soil media applications such as drenching can be made to containerized plants for the control of labeled ornamental pests. Roots must be present for pesticide uptake to occur. For best results, apply when the soil media is moist, but not saturated or dry. Drench applications perform best when applied preventatively (before pests or pathogens are present). If insect pests are already present, a foliar application is recommended. Avoid leaching treated containers for up to 10 days after application as product performance may be reduced. Heavy rainfall or excessive irrigation after application could reduce efficacy. Depending on product, plant size and environmental conditions, it can take up 7-14 days for efficacy. Depending upon product, rate, plant size and pest pressure, protection can last 4-8 weeks.

Substrate moisture levels

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
Very Dry	Dry	Normal	Wet	Saturated
Substrate appears pale tan to gray and may shrink away from the container edges. The material is loose and dusty when handled.	Substrate is light brown in color and can crumble. When squeezed, no moisture is released.	Substrate is medium brown and holds together when compressed. Firm pressure may release a small amount of moisture.	Substrate appears dark brown and uniformly damp without surface shine. When squeezed, water can be expressed readily.	Substrate is very dark brown and may appear glossy or shiny. Free water may be visible on the surface, and excess water drains easily.

Envu® recommendation: When it comes to drenching, we suggest that your pots be at about a 2.5 on this scale for optimal results.

envu® Ornamentals

Apply drench when media moisture is between moisture level 2-3 (above). Drench volume (Table 1, below) should be sufficient to thoroughly wet soil media without overflowing or leaching from the container. Following a drench application, irrigate carefully during the next 10 days to limit excess drainage and avoid loss of active ingredient from the container.

Drench Volume

The amount of drench solution is targeted at 10% of the container volume. This amount can be calculated for any container. Examples of common container sizes and their recommended drench volumes are provided (right). Pot sizes often vary by manufacturers and volumes should be tested on a small scale before widescale application.

For larger containers and other containerized ornamental plants, such as raised beds, benches, bedding flats, plug and liner trays, apply 12.8 fluid ounces of drench solution per gallon of potting media and avoid overflow or runoff through drain holes.

Media Drench Volume for Individual Pots

Container size	Fluid ounces of dilute pesticide solution
4 in. pot (1 pint)	1.6
5 in. pot (1.75 pint)	2.8
6 in. pot (1.25 quart)	4.0
7 in. pot (2.2 quart)	7.0
8 in. pot (3.25 quart)	10.4
10 in. Hanging Basket (1.27 gallon)	16.3
12 in. Hanging Basket (2.39 gallon)	31.1
Nursery Trade Gallon (0.73 gallon)	9.3
Nursery 3 Gallon (2.92 gallon)	37.4
#5 (5-gallon) (3.4-5.4 gallon)	43.5-69.1
#7 (7-gallon) (5.8-7.7 gallon)	74.2-98.6
#10 (10-gallon) (9-11 gallon)	115.-2-147.2
#12 (15-gallon) (12-16 gallon)	153.6-204.8