

# Water for Profit

## Solid set and handshift sprinklers – catch can trials



WATERFORPROFIT



### Purpose and equipment

Catch can trials are used to measure uniformity (evenness of application) of the irrigation water applied by sprinkler systems. These measurements will show up any unevenness due to system layout and design. They can also highlight changes in performance due to poor maintenance or age of the system. The trials require:

- catch cans
- poles to hold the cans upright
- a ruler or measuring container.

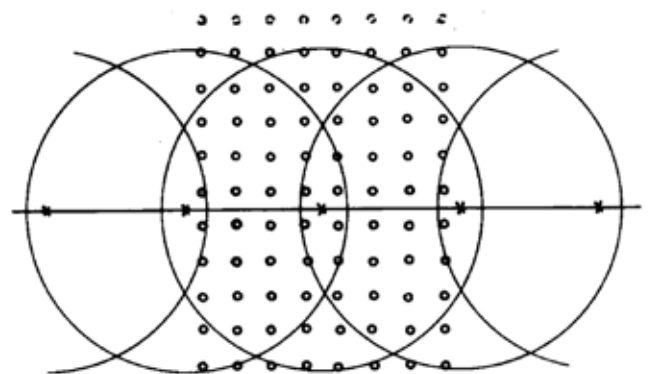
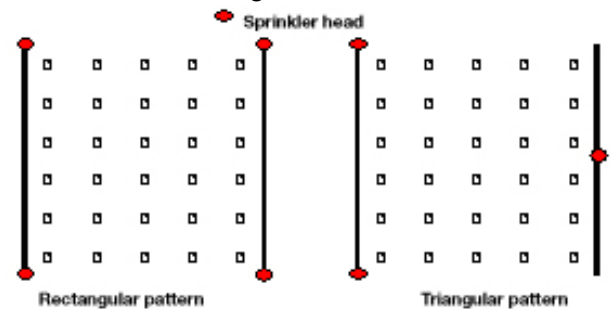
### The catch can

All the cans must be watertight and identical in shape and size. The height of the tin should be at least twice the average depth of irrigation water applied. A 10cm tall baked bean or pet food tin is usually suitable.

The can should be attached to a pole ensuring that the lip of the can is above the top of the pole. A short wooden garden stake is ideal. For taller growing crops, obstructions should be cleared from around the can so that all the water can be caught. The cans should be positioned as close to the ground as possible but always slightly above the crop canopy.

### Catch can layout

The catch cans should be positioned in a grid amongst three or more sprinklers. Depending on your spacing, the cans should be placed approximately one to two metres apart and no less than 20 cans should be used in the grid. The position of the cans is the same for a triangular or rectangular sprinkler pattern. See layouts below for details. The cans are placed in the field prior to irrigation and the depth or volume of water is measured from each can after the irrigation has stopped with the ruler or measuring container.



For more details contact the Growcom members access line on 1800 654 222

Disclaimer: This information is provided as a reference tool only. Seek professional advice for irrigation specifics.



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