

## Guidelines for interpreting soil moisture tensions (centibars) measured with Resistance Blocks and Tensiometers.

Soil Tension (centibars)	Sand/Loamy Sand	Sandy Loam	Loam/Silt Loam	Clay Loam/Clay
	Depletion of the Plant Available Water (%)			
<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Not fully drained</b>	<b>Not fully drained</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>90</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>130</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>150</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>170</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>190</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>49</b>

Table adapted from Scheduling Irrigations: When and How Much Water to Apply. Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3396. University of California Irrigation Program. University of California, Davis. pp. 106.

### General rule of thumb for interpretation:

Soil moisture is nearing a critically dry level when soil tension (indicated by the centibar meter reading) reaches a level that corresponds to more than 50 percent depletion of the plant available water at a specific soil depth. The critical soil tension level that corresponds with 50 percent depletion levels will vary depending upon soil type because of different soil porosity characteristics.. For example, a soil tension reading of 35 centibars may indicate that a very sandy soil will approach 50 percent depletion of plant available soil moisture but for a loam/silt loam soil 50 percent depletion may not be approached until tension readings approach 110 to 130 centibars.