# RAIN GAUGE ACCURACY
## BASIC VS. SCIENTIFIC

Rain gauges are a common garden implement: you don't need to be a weather watcher to have a use for one. But the **type** of rain gauge you use matters.

## BASIC RAIN GAUGES



Basic rain gauges are found in your home improvement or department stores. They're quite inexpensive (under $15), and made of plastic (or silicone). Typically they come with a stake for in-ground mounting, and are small in size.



*Accuracy is an issue with these gauges*. The opening at the gauge is often small, which causes undercount in high winds as precipitation blows across the mouth of the gauge. Some do include a funnel for better catchment, however.

## SCIENTIFIC RAIN GAUGES




Scientific rain gauges, on the other hand, are bought either from the manufacturer, or through speciality retailers such as Cirrusly Weather. They're larger and also considerably more expensive, although price can vary.



Accuracy with these gauges is significantly better. The opening of the gauge is much larger, which keeps it accurate even in high winds. They're also precisely calibrated, and technically are the only type of gauge to be used for spotter reports.

## IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

Studies show that both funnel diameter and wall height play a part in a gauge's capability to remain consistently accurate across a variety of weather conditions. Price does generally correlate to a more accurate gauge, however the differences between gauges at higher price points are less about accuracy and more about functionality.