

# PourThru Method – Containerized Perennials

Dr. W. Garrett Owen

([wgowen@uky.edu](mailto:wgowen@uky.edu))

Delia Scott

([delia.scott@uky.edu](mailto:delia.scott@uky.edu))

University of Kentucky, Department of Horticulture, Lexington, KY

The PourThru method is a quick and easy procedure to test substrate pH and EC in-house without disturbing plant roots or removing substrate. The general procedure to perform a PourThru is outlined below:

## STEPS

1

Irrigate 3 to 5 representative plants or the entire crop to container capacity.



2

While waiting 30 minutes to 1 hour, calibrate the pH and EC meter(s). Refer to CEH-1-IG.



3

Place a plastic collection saucer under each container to be sampled.



4

Pour distilled water over the substrate surface, circling the plant.



5

Collect leachate from each saucer for pH and EC evaluation.



6

Test each leachate sample and record the pH and EC values for each plant.



7

Interpret results of the leachate samples using the searchable database at [www.fertdirtsquirt.org](http://www.fertdirtsquirt.org).



Common Name: Foxglove  
 pH Category: III - pH 5.8 - 6.2  
 Fertilization Category: Low - 100-150ppm  
 EC Category: A  
 1:2 Extract EC: 0.4 - 0.6  
 Saturated Media Extract EC: 0.9 - 1.3  
 Pour Thru EC (bottom): 0.9 - 1.3  
 Pour Thru EC (top): 1.3 - 2.0

Photos by: W. Garrett Owen, Ph.D.