Garden Weather Station Checklist

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Garden Weather Station Checklist

Identify the capabilities you would like your garden weather station to have.

Temperature
- Current Temperature
- High/Low
- Time of day for high and low
- Periodic reading throughout the day
- Temperature readings from multiple locations. List them

Rain
- Current amount
- Rain rate
- Cumulative amount per storm
- Cumulative amount per month/year (water year or calendar year)
- Periodic readings throughout the day

Wind
- Current speed
- High sustained speed
- High gust
- Meteorological speed or garden speed
- Direction
- Dominant Direction
- Periodic readings throughout the day

Humidity
- Current Humidity
- High daily humidity
- Low daily humidity
- Periodic reading throughout the day

Barometric Pressure
- Current barometric pressure
- Direction of change
- Rate of change
- Periodic readings throughout the day

Solar Radiation
- Current amount
- Periodic readings throughout the day

Evapotranspiration (calculated from wind, temperature, humidity, solar radiation)
- Current amount
- Periodic readings throughout the day
- Amount per day, month, year

UV Radiation
- Current amount
- Daily cumulative amount
Other measurements to consider
   Soil Temperature
   Soil Moisture
   Leaf Wetness
Data Logging
   Manual daily record keeping
   Automated data logging (requires a station with a communication port)
   Periodic computer connection for data logging
   Dedicated computer for data logging
   Archive Interval
Data Sharing
   Citizens Weather Observer Program
   Wunderground or similar service
   Personal weather station data published on your own website
Software
   Understand the capabilities of the software that came with the weather station.
   Is third party software available for station?
   Does the software generate graphs and web pages?
   Is open source software available for the station you select?
   Does the software supports the feature set defined above
Weather Station sensor communication
   Do you want or need more than one console?
   Wired
   Wireless
   Hybrid
Alarms
   Does the console have audible alarms?
   List sensors and conditions for which you want alarms.
      Example: Greenhouse temp exceeding 95 degrees
Power Source
   Power source for console  Example: AC with battery backup
   Power source for sensors
      Powered from console
      Battery only
      Solar with battery backup
   Will the sensors be located in an easy place to service?
   Do I want a heater for the rain gauge in winter
Documentation
   Is the manufacturer documentation well written and easy to understand?
   Is the documentation available on the manufacturer’s website?