

Your ETgage is fully assembled and ready to use. It was shipped with a Style # _____ cover mounted on the evaporator. Other covers are in the can.

See instructions starting on page 1 for filling, priming and field installation.

Use Distilled Water Only
Protect From Freezing

Do not use tap water or mineral water

Diffusion Covers

The ETgage uses three different top covers to provide appropriate resistance to water vapor as it leaves the instrument. These covers are identified as Style #30, Style #54 and Style #C2. You will find the number stamped on the edge of the cover.

The green-colored covers rest on top of disposable “wafers”. The cover/wafer combination sits on top of the ceramic evaporator cup. The cover receives energy from sunlight and air and provides appropriate vapor diffusion resistance. The wafer keeps rainwater from entering the instrument. Cover and wafer simulate a canopy of leaves.

Canvas Covers

Use the canvas covers when you mount the ETgage in an open area or above the plant canopy of leaves.

Use the #30 for turf grass. An ETgage with #30 cover simulates grass reference evapotranspiration (ET_o).

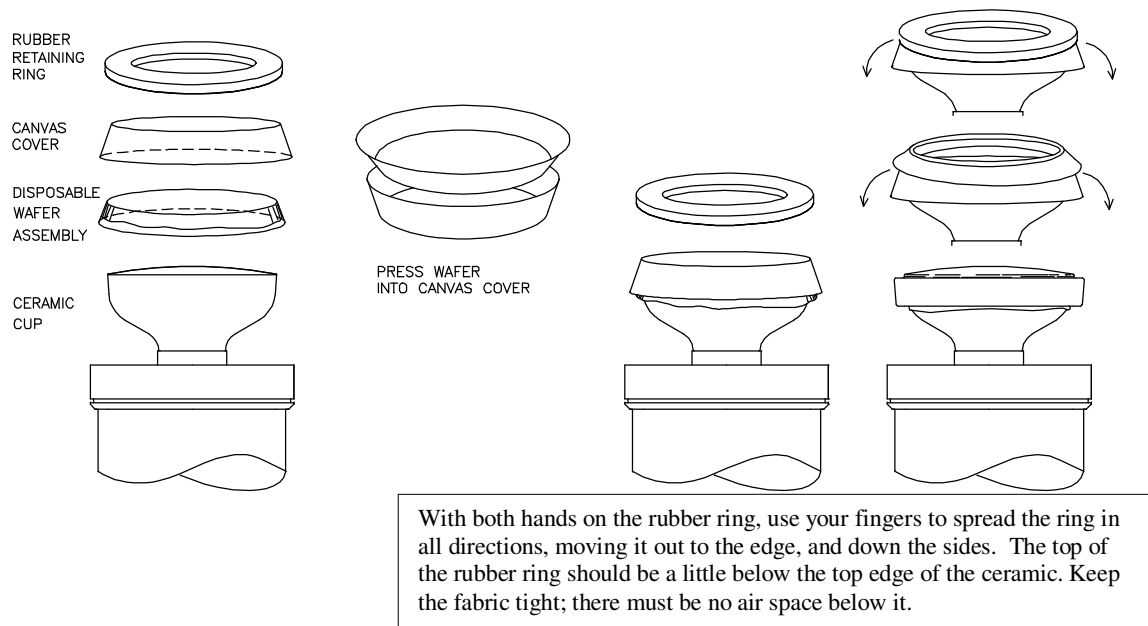
Use the Style #54 canvas cover for agricultural crops. An ETgage with #54 cover simulates alfalfa reference ET (ET_r). (ET readings with a #54 cover will be in the range of 10% to 15% greater than that of a #30 cover.)

Thin Polyester Cloth Cover, Style #C2¹

Use the #C2 cover when you mount the ETgage *within* the plant canopy. The top of the ETgage must be level with the top of the plants. #C2 will fade in sunlight, but that will not affect your results. You can turn the #C2 cover inside out without affecting performance. Use #C2 to simulate the plant canopy ET of any crop.

¹ Style #C2 replaces the ETgage Style #G2 cover. It has the same characteristics as #G2. Use with a wafer.

“Wafer” Evaporation Element (for use with all covers)



For low maintenance, use a disposable ETgage "wafer" between the green fabric cover and the ceramic evaporator surface.¹ The wafer will protect the ceramic from accumulated contamination. When you remove a wafer, the ceramic should look wet.

Any residues left as water evaporates will accumulate in the wafer instead of on the ceramic; but you must still use distilled water to minimize contamination. Tap water or mineral water will damage the wafer.

The wafer will last about a growing season. Eventually you will see hard crusty areas on the top of the wafer. These areas block evaporation, and they will reduce the evaporation rate by an amount proportional to their size, which leads to error.

Replacing the wafer will bring evaporation back to the correct rate.

The top layer of the wafer sheds any rainwater that gets through the canvas. At the same time, it allows water *vapor* to pass freely.

If the fabric cover becomes very dirty, remove and wash it in warm water (not hot water). If you use soap, rinse thoroughly.

For the Style #C2 cover, install a wafer on the ceramic cup first, then center the cover on top of it and install the rubber retaining ring.

Do not clean the porous ceramic surface or the wafer with soap or detergent. This would interfere with their water wicking properties.

¹ The evaporation rate will be the same if you do not use a wafer, but without it, the ceramic surface will slowly become contaminated, and it will require vigorous sanding about every 4 months (use a medium grit silicon carbide abrasive paper under running water). Also without the wafer, rainwater will seep through the canvas cover and be pulled into the instrument's reservoir.