



Tips For a Water Wise Garden

Water is a precious resource, it's important to use water wisely. Water is the most critical part of home gardening. As water becomes scarce we need to be more aware of conservation. When it comes to conserving water, small adjustments can have a big impact. The key is using water efficiently; not extravagantly.

"We'll never know the worth of water 'till the well goes dry." -- 18th century Scottish proverb

1. Water infrequently but water deeply and thoroughly. This will encourage deep rooting and greater root tolerance in dry spells. Don't water every day.



2. Mulch the soil surface to cut down on water loss due to evaporation. We recommend a two inch layer of **Fine Bark or Soil Pep**. Leaf clippings or newspaper will also work. Apply mulch around shrubs, trees, flowers, vegetable gardens and even in containers.



3. Install a drip irrigation system. The slow watering system can save up to 60% of all water used in garden care.



4. Water early in the day, especially during the hot summer days, to reduce evaporation loss.

5. Aerate your lawns to insure maximum water penetration. Spread 1/8" of **peatmoss, Ferti Mulch,** or **Soil Moist** over your lawn after aerating, and rake it down into the holes. These types of products will help keep moisture in the soil for the lawn to use.



6. Don't be a gutter flooder. Turn off lawn sprinklers before water is wasted. Water two times in one day if needed, **but don't water every day.**



7. Properly condition your soil. Water does not easily penetrate clay soil and water passes too quickly through sandy soil. Adding Soil Pep, Coconut Fiber, or Compost to the soil will help tremendously.



8. Raise the height of your lawn mower. Keep your lawn two to three inches long during the summer. Longer blades of grass can mean going one to three days longer between waterings.

9. Discourage water competition from weeds. Keep them pulled.

10. Group plants together having similar water requirements. (Junipers, for example, don't need as much water as lawns.)



11. Use bath water in your vegetable or flower garden. Soft water is not desirable for flowers and vegetables but won't hurt larger trees and shrubs occasionally, (in an emergency).

12. Fertilize well in the spring and fall, but don't fertilize much during the summer.

13. Plant shrubs and trees early in the spring, or late in the fall. Trees will withstand drought better once they are rooted thoroughly.

14. Use water holding and water penetrating additives. Organic material holds water; add as much compost as practicable. **Water In** or **Pene Turf** helps water soak into the soil faster (liquid dish soap also helps water soak in faster).

Soil Moist is a crystal that actually holds water. **Soil Moist** keeps water from draining away too quickly. It acts like a tiny sponge to hold water until the plants need it.



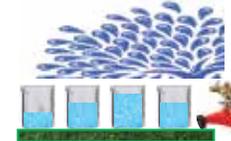
Use **Soil Moist** in hanging baskets, patio containers, after aerating your lawn, in flower and vegetable gardens, and when planting new shrubs and trees.

15. Hand Water smaller, dry areas. Don't water the entire lawn if it does not need it. You will save a lot of water!



16. Do not water older trees (fruit trees, pine trees, shade trees) until mid-summer. Water them deeply once a month from mid-summer until snow fall. Pines and junipers are very drought tolerant, and they don't need as much water as fruit trees, water them differently.

17. Measure how much water you apply. Place small cans in several different locations throughout your lawn. Measure how much water is applied to each area. You may be surprised!



Fixing your sprinklers can save thousands of gallons of water.

Being "Water Wise" not only conserves water but actually helps you achieve a healthier garden. Both your plants, and your neighbors, will appreciate you more!

More plants die from too-much-water than die from the lack-of-water!



WAYS TO SAVE WATER INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

1. Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Every time you flush a cigarette butt or facial tissue down the toilet, you waste five to seven gallons of water. The average family of 4 with two bathrooms, flushes the toilet up to 20 times a day or 7,300 times a year. This could use up to 51,000 gallons of water each year.



2. Install low volume water toilets. By installing low volume toilets in your house you could save up to 30,000 gallons of water next year.

3. Check your toilet for leaks. A leak in your toilet may be wasting more than 100 gallons of water a day. To check for leaks, put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the coloring begins to appear in the bowl, you have a leak.

4. Put bottles or bricks in your toilet tank. Your toilet can probably flush just as efficiently with less water than it now uses. To cut down water waste, put an inch or two of sand in each of two plastic quart bottles to weigh them down. Fill them with water and put them in your toilet tank, safely away from the operating mechanisms. In an average home, two bottles may displace 10 gallons or more of water each day.

5. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restricters. Hardware stores stock inexpensive shower heads and flow restricters that are easy to install and still give you cleansing, refreshing showers. Long, hot showers waste 5 gallons of water every unneeded minute.

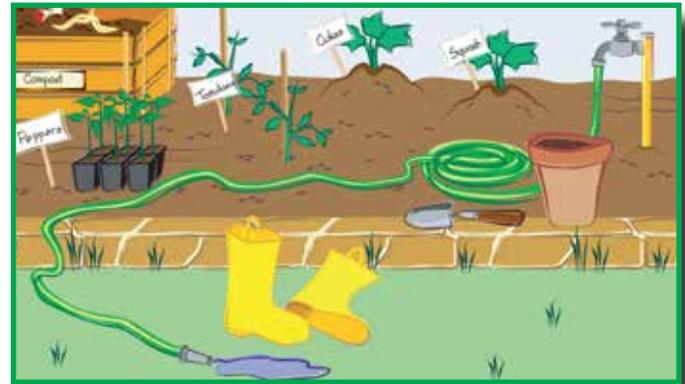
6. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Before brushing, wet your brush and fill a glass for rinsing your mouth. There is no need to keep pouring water down the drain.

7. Rinse your razor in the sink. Before shaving, partially fill your sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your blade just as efficiently as running water with far less waste.

8. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. Even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 50 or more gallons of water a day. Large leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.

9. Use your automatic dishwasher only for full loads. Every time you run your dishwasher you use a bathtub full of water.

Plants Don't Waste Water, People Do!

A wooden sign with a dark background and white cursive text, mounted on a wooden post.

10. Don't let the faucet run while you clean fruits and vegetables. Instead, rinse them in a sink full of clean water.

11. Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water until it becomes cool for drinking.

12. If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running to rinse them. If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, gather your washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them quickly with a spray device or pan of water.

13. Use your automatic washing machine only for full loads. Your automatic washer uses 30 to 40 gallons of water in a cycle.

14. Use your bath water to water your lawn or trees. Don't use soft water to water flowers, houseplants or newly planted shrubs, but an occasional drink of soft water will not hurt older shrubs or lawns.

15. Change your watering schedule according to the season. *Do not water plants the same in the spring and fall, as you do during the heat of summer. Adjust the timer for your automatic sprinkler system regularly; at least every 2-3 weeks.*

16. Use a broom to clean the driveway or sidewalk instead of washing it with the hose.

17. Use a shut-off nozzle on the end of your hose. You use a lot of water moving a hose from one location to another. A shut-off nozzle is also very beneficial while washing your car.

18. MOST IMPORTANTLY:

***DO NOT WATER
LAWNS and PLANTS
EVERY DAY!***

<http://www.slowtheflow.org/>
<http://www.weberbasin.com/conservation/>
<http://waterwiseutah.org/resources.htm>
<http://extension.usu.edu/waterquality/conservation/>

