

Water Conservation Tips for Gardeners

The most effective watering technique involves watering **DEEPLY**, at soil level, less frequently. A deep watering of established trees and shrubs will provide respite from dry conditions for a longer period than a shallow application.

Watering early in the day reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation.



A spring loaded water nozzle is a must. A good quality nozzle includes more than one spray pattern for different applications and will shut off immediately when the handle or trigger is released. For harder to reach locations, use a long watering wand

so that you can get the **water close to the base of the plant without spraying water through the air**, where it is susceptible to evaporation.

Make sure hoses are **leak free**. Replace or repair leaking hoses. Make sure connections are tight and leak free. Replace worn washers & any damaged connectors. Add a quick coupling system to make moving your hose between locations quicker and easier.



Be sure watering cans are leak free. A larger capacity watering can will reduce the number of trips you'll need to make between the water source and plants. An 8 litre capacity is pretty good – a fair amount of water without too much weight.



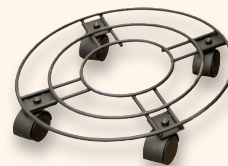
Use "grey water" where possible. This is a common practice in warmer climates that are used to conserving water year round. Use the water left in the sink after washing dishes to water shrubs or flower beds.

Keep your garden **weed free**. Weeds compete with desirable plants for available water.



Install a **drip irrigation system** to water your most valued plants or garden locations. They are easy to install and reap rewards in time saved and efficient watering for years to come.

Make watering plants in pots and containers easier by using products like "Water Globes" or "Plant Nanny" that **hold water and metre it out as needed**. These are great when you must leave your potted plants unattended for several days at a time.



Stand plants in saucers and use plant dollies that can be **wheeled into shady locations during the hottest part of the day**.

Mix moisture holding soil amendments evenly into the soil around recently planted plants or before planting. Amendments include peat moss, coir (coco fibre), compost and moisture holding polymers.



Install specialized watering bags (Hippo Bags) around both recently planted and established trees to supply water slowly to the root zone.

Plants in pots and hanging baskets need to be watered as often as twice daily during hot weather. **Check the moisture level of the soil with a moisture meter to determine the need for water**, and then apply water using either a drip irrigation system or by hand.

