



SMART WATERING TIPS

FACTSHEET 1

Plant right!

Saving water doesn't have to involve the cost and inconvenience of tearing up your garden to install a new irrigation system. It's easy to lower water consumption with simple changes to your landscaping and gardening routine.

- ◆ **Landscape to suit your district.**

Choose grass species for your lawn or plants that have low water requirements and will thrive in your local climate. Native plants are particularly well adapted for this. Consider your garden's unique features, including sun and shade, dry and damp areas, plant size, and how you plan to use each section of your yard.

- ◆ **Keep soil healthy.**

Aerating your lawn and around trees at least once a year helps improve water penetration. When planting, turn and cultivate the soil and add compost or fertiliser to improve moisture retention and grow healthier plants that need less water to stay strong.

- ◆ **Mulch well around plants, bushes and trees.**

Using 2 to 4 inches of mulch reduces evaporation, moderates extremes in soil temperatures, improves water penetration and helps control weeds that compete for water.

- ◆ **"Hydro-zone" your yard.**

Grouping plants with similar watering needs in the same area makes it easier to ensure they get the water they need without over-watering. Flowerbeds and lawn areas can often have very different water requirements and should be watered separately.

- ◆ **Plant in spring or fall.**

Avoid planting out in summer, when hotter temperatures mean plants need more water to become established.

- ◆ **Save grass for functional areas.**

Grass play zones and other areas where it will be used and enjoyed. Instead of grassing steep slopes or other hard-to-water spaces, consider ground cover, perimeter plants or mulch.

- ◆ **Plant shade trees.**

The shade they cast creates natural "air-conditioning", lowering air and soil temperatures, and reducing soil moisture loss.

- ◆ **Maintain your yard regularly.**

A well-maintained garden requires less water, so weed, prune and mow as needed.

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