



Watering your garden

Water is a precious resource and Western Australia is being severely impacted by climate change, resulting in the driest years on record. Waterwise gardens use less water and are low maintenance, leaving you with more time to relax and enjoy your surroundings. Over watering does not improve plant growth, so follow the tips provided for a beautiful Waterwise garden.

WHAT CAN I DO?

By applying the right amount of water in the cool hours of the day and using drip irrigation you will save water and allow your garden to thrive.

HOW DO I DO IT?

Plan for Efficient Watering

Group plants in your garden together according to their water needs so you can irrigate them efficiently without over or under watering. A good place to start is with a Waterwise Garden Appraisal from your local Waterwise Garden Centre.

Watering Times

The best time to water your garden is at dawn when there are minimal evaporative losses and the risk of plant based fungal diseases is reduced. Irrigation run times vary depending on the application rate of your irrigation system, but typically range from 10 – 15 minutes per station. For assistance in determining ideal run times consult one of the Waterwise Garden Irrigators – you'll find contact details for these by following the 'Being Waterwise' links from www.watercorporation.com.au.



JOSH BYRNE

sustainable gardening specialist and popular media personality provides advice on watering your garden.





Reticulation Systems - Drip Irrigation and Sprinklers

Substrata (under the mulch) drip irrigation is the most efficient way to water your plants. Water is applied directly to the roots, eliminating evaporative losses and overspray. As the water is applied to the soil rather than the foliage, fewer fungal diseases are experienced. There are different drip irrigation products available to suit various situations (e.g. bore water, greywater, etc) and specific equipment such as filters are required for optimum performance. Drip irrigation systems are reasonably priced and are easy to install and maintain. For irrigation advice and support visit a WaterWise Irrigation Design Shop – you'll find contact details for these by following the 'Being Waterwise' links from www.watercorporation.com.au

Sprinklers come in many varieties. The most efficient for Western Australia's conditions are the heavy droplet type which reduce wind drift and water loss. If using sprinklers it is very important to position them to get maximum uniformity of application over the area being irrigated. Avoid watering in the heat of the day or during windy times. When using a portable sprinkler and hose, always use a tap timer to ensure you don't waste water by forgetting to turn the sprinkler off. Micro sprinklers (attached to poly pipe) can be converted to drip irrigation by replacing the hard riser and sprinkler head with individual drippers or lengths of dripline. It is important that all of the micro spray heads are replaced on a particular line (i.e. don't mix different irrigation systems as they have different application rates which will result in uneven watering).



Watering Rosters

The Water Corporation's Water Efficiency Measures include a roster system for water users across WA. In Perth and surrounds, there is currently a 2 day a week roster for scheme users and an additional day for bore users. Your household watering days are determined by your house number (the last digit).

House or Lot Numbers (ending in)	Watering Days for scheme and bore water users (2 days)	Bore owners additional day
1	Wednesday and Saturday	Monday
2	Thursday and Sunday	Tuesday
3	Friday and Monday	Wednesday
4	Saturday and Tuesday	Thursday
5	Sunday and Wednesday	Friday
6	Monday and Thursday	Saturday
7	Tuesday and Friday	Sunday
8	Wednesday and Saturday	Monday
9	Thursday and Sunday	Tuesday
0	Friday and Monday	Wednesday

Gardens can only be irrigated on your allocated days either during the morning (before 9am) or the evening (after 6pm). These water efficiency measures have reduced water use in Perth by 45 million kilolitres per year. To find out more about water efficiency measures, visit www.thinking50.com.au



Hand Watering

Hand watering is a very efficient method of watering – particularly if you use a ‘trigger’ nozzle to ensure minimal water wastage when moving between plants. It is important to ensure not to over water using this method. Keep hand watering to 2 days per week except in very hot conditions.

Diversified Water Sources

You can utilise rainfall by diverting water from gutters or laying paving to direct run off into garden beds to recharge soil moisture. By doing this, even light rainfall events can benefit your plants. Tanks can be used to store water for garden use but the types of small tanks that are suited to urban lots soon run out in summer.

Household greywater can also be used in the garden by redirecting shower, bath, hand basin and laundry water through an ‘approved greywater system’.

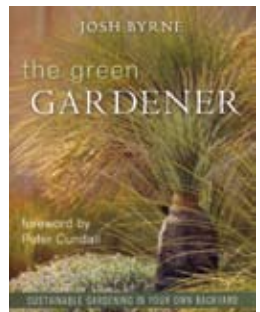
Waterwise Garden Maintenance Tips:

- Regularly check your irrigation system for leaks and blockages. Also check for dripping taps.

- Adjust your irrigation controller according to the seasons and switch it off in the event of rain.
- Apply wetting agents to aid water penetration if you have non wetting soil.
- Regularly top up your mulch to retain moisture in the soil.
- Remove weeds – they use water too!
- Sweep paths and driveways rather than watering them.

WHY?

The average Perth household uses around half of their water in the garden, which makes it a great place to start saving water – plus it can help you save money on your water bills!



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