

Saving Water in the Garden



Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose.

Plant native and drought-tolerant plants when possible.

Adjust hose timer with weather, or consider a smart irrigation controller.

Install water efficient irrigation devices such as drip irrigation or soaker hoses.

Learn to assess soil moisture with the squeeze test.

Dig down a few inches and grab a handful of soil.

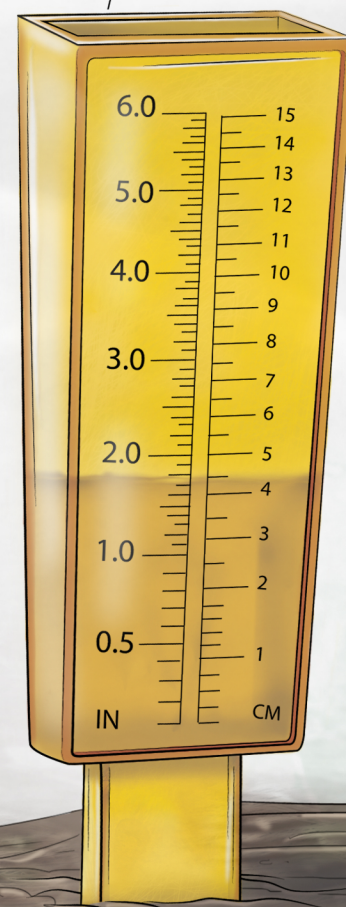


Enough water



Time to water

Use a rain gauge to measure how much rain water your garden has received. Water less after a rain.



Water early in the morning to reduce losses from evaporation.

Before 9 AM



After 7 PM

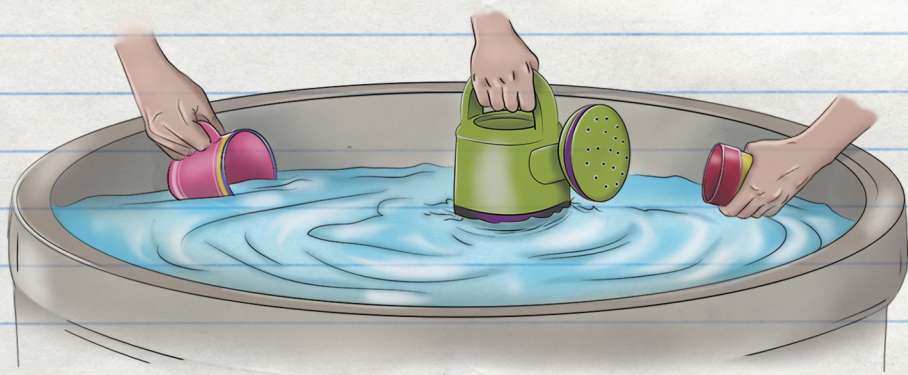


Apply 3 or more inches of mulch (like straw) to hold moisture in the soil. Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with plants for water. Add compost to help soil retain water longer.

For newly planted seeds and seedlings, water quickly and frequently to keep the soil surface constantly moist. For more established plants, water less frequently but for a longer time so that the water can sink down to the deepest roots.

Tips for Watering with Kids

Use a dipping bucket to fill watering cans.



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