

CREATING A WATERING PLAN AND LEARNING ABOUT WATER CONSERVATION

During summer, water is the most important part of gardening, and knowing how and when to water will improve your growing!

When and How to Water

When: During the hot summer, it is best to water your plants in the morning or early evening when the sun is not at its hottest.

How: Remember that only the roots — not the leaves — need water. Wetting the leaves can be harmful to the plant and can promote the spread of disease. Water only when needed; you can tell by feeling the soil

- Use the Finger Test: Stick a finger into the soil (deep into the soil). The soil should feel damp.

Signs of Overwatering and Underwatering

OVERWATERING	UNDERWATERING
Plants look wilted but it looks like there is plenty of water. Leaves turn brown and wilt, or turn yellow.	Yellowing leaves. Dried leaves toward bottom of plant. Roots are showing. Soil around plant looks cracked.
<i>How to fix overwatering</i> Decrease the amount of water given to plant. Dig up overwatered plant in the garden and look for any root damage.	<i>How to fix under watering</i> Water carefully and slowly. Use the water bottle trick.

Notes:



Water Conservation and You

What is water conservation?

Refers to the preservation, control and development of water resources, both surface and groundwater, and the prevention of pollution.

How can I conserve water in my garden?

- Water deeply
 - Focus on just the root zone rather than the entire plant
- Use groundcover
 - Planting groundcover reduces the chances of weeds and saves water
- Use mulch
 - Straw, for example, locks in moisture, reduces the number of times for watering, and deters weeds
- Use a rain barrel
 - Connect a rain barrel to a gutter or create a funnel system for natural rain water to reduce the need for turning on the hose
- Control weeds
 - Weeds compete with vegetables for water and nutrients
- Group together plants with similar water needs, based on how they grow
 - Cucumber, zucchini, and squash, for example, have similar water applications
- Amend the soil with coarse, decomposed organic matter (a.k.a. compost?) in the spring
 - This will not only increase the potential yield and add more soil to the garden; it also helps with irrigation

