



10 TIPS FOR VEGETABLE GARDENING WITH LESS WATER



Compost, compost, compost

Adding organic matter to the soil increases its water holding capacity.



Mulch, mulch, mulch

Covering the surface of the soil decreases the rate of evaporation up to 50% and cuts down on thirsty weeds.



Choose crops you like to eat

Limit your vegetables to the ones your family likes and will eat.



Plant only as much as you can eat

Limit the number of plants to a reasonable amount for your uses.



Plant closer to shade between plants

Sun on soil increases evaporation. Shade your beds with your veggies. Plant in blocks, instead of rows and reduce spacing between plants.



Inspect irrigation often

Look for leaks and wasted water. Be sure water is getting to the roots of your plants.



Apply water slowly to the base of plants

Be sure your water only goes to the vegetable plants' roots. Water deeply and less often to encourage roots to go deep into the soil.



Water early or late

There is less water loss in the cooler times of day.



Check soil moisture

Before you water, look at and feel the soil to check dryness, not just at the surface, but 4-6 inches down.



Plant in containers

Less soil needs less water. Water is directed right to plant roots. Put a bucket in your shower and use shower "warm up water" to capture and use water that otherwise would go down the drain. Mix 30% compost into container soil.

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