

Watering Tips

- Most vegetable plants thrive on an inch of water per week. If it rains that much, there's no need to water.
- Reduced rainfall can mean lower yields, but only a severe drought will cause plants to actually die.
- The best time to water is early in the morning; second best is late afternoon/evening. Watering in the heat of the day is largely wasted due to evaporation.
- The goal of watering is to wet the soil deeply enough to feed the roots of the plants. Sprinkling the leaves is ineffective and can cause sun-scald and spread diseases.
- Best practice is to water deeply right at the roots. If the surface soil is dry, water lightly so it starts to soak in & then go back over it with more water.
- It's much more effective to water one section of your garden deeply, then go back later in the week to water another section well. Spreading a little bit of water all around is pretty much a waste of time and water.
- Mulch! Any weed-free mulch will keep the soil cool and retain moisture, greatly reducing the need to water.
- Most crucial times in a plant's life for watering are: when first planting seeds or seedlings, and again when they are flowering and setting fruit.
- Keeping your plot free of weeds will allow all of the water to go to your crops.