

Water Wise Gardening



Grassroots
Gardens
of Buffalo

Water conservation is very important even in an area such as buffalo that gets a good amount of rain and snow throughout the year. Using water wisely will create a healthier garden environment and save you time and money.

Water out of the sun

Watering your garden is necessary for healthy growth, but when watering you want to make sure the most water is going into the ground and not evaporating into the air. This is best done by watering early in the morning and late in the evening. Anytime when the sun is not directly over your garden will cut down on evaporation.



Mulch

Mulching around your plants helps retain moisture. The mulch helps lock in the moisture and keep the sunlight directly off the soils. Using mulch around your plants will help lower how much you water your plants. Also mulch helps prevent weeds, which will take water away from your plants.

Choose Native Plants

Choosing plants that are native to your area will increase the likelihood that they can survive without extra watering. Native plants are used to growing without personal care and the natural rainfall will be enough for them.





Group Heavy Water Plants Together

There are some plants that need a larger amount than others, (i.e. corn, tomatoes, cucumbers) Most vegetables are 80 to 95 percent water. If you plant your vegetables close together you will avoid watering unused soils. Also separating out flowers or other plants that don't need as much water will allow you to water each plant to its specific water needs.



Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are used to collect rain water that can then be recycled into use on your garden. You can attach a rain barrel to your house's rain gutter system and collect the water into a rain barrel which you can attach a garden hose to and water your garden. You can receive rain barrels through Buffalo Niagara River keeper.

Resources:

http://www.bostonnatural.org/cgGTips_WaterConsurv.htm

<http://www.rodalorganiclife.com/garden/top-10-ways-consume-water>

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/mg/Gardennotes/716.html>

<http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/water-wise-gardening/5047.html>