

Watering Tips

1. Water in the morning or the evening
 - This minimizes evaporation and prevents plants from getting burned, which can happen if they are watered in the heat of the day. If possible, water in the morning, since this allows plants to dry off during the day. As temperatures drop during the night, lingering moisture makes some plants susceptible to fungal infection.
2. Mulch
 - This protective layer helps keep water in the soil by minimizing evaporation, it reduces erosion, suppresses weed growth, reduces runoff and regulates the temperature of the soil preventing it from getting too hot for the roots of your plants.
 - Another option is to plant ground cover crops like white clover between your crops to act as living mulch, which serves the same functions as other types of mulch, with the added benefit that living mulches can be tilled under to serve as green manure (compost) to enrich the soil, and certain varieties of living mulch (legumes) fix nitrogen, making it more available in the soil for your crops.
3. Water less frequently but more deeply
 - After planting new seeds, it's important to water them gently each day until the seedlings are established. After that, it's usually not necessary to water every day; instead, it's a good idea to water less frequently (every other day should suffice), but more deeply. Giving the soil a good soak allows water to seep deep down, which encourages plants to develop a deep and well established root base (roots seek out where the water is). Light watering keeps moisture at the surface of the soil, resulting in shallow, a less stable root structure, and weaker plants.
4. Use efficient watering methods
 - Drip irrigation or soaker hoses – These greatly increase the efficiency of watering.
 - Homemade plastic jug drip irrigator – It's possible to make your own drip irrigators by punching holes in the bottom of plastic gallon jugs and placing them near the bases of your plants. Simply fill the jugs and allow them to slowly water your plants.



Soon after these tomato plants were planted a hole was dug for this can. The bottom of the can was cut out and they water directly in the can so the water goes to the roots.

5. Plant native species – they can handle periods of drought.
6. Group plants according to their watering needs.