

Water for established gardens



Water when needed

Get to know your plants so that you are able to determine when they are beginning to experience drought-stress. If the soil in the root area is dry, water thoroughly. It is best to water when needed rather than relying on a timer since water needs are highly variable.

Infrequently but thoroughly

Water thoroughly until soil in and around root area is wet. Allow soil to become moderately dry before watering again.

Water in morning

Water in early morning when it is cool and the winds are calm. This is good for the plants and will reduce water loss from evaporation.

Before extreme weather

Thoroughly hydrate plants before extreme hot, dry weather sets in. Well hydrated plants also withstand frost conditions better.

Young plants

Water young plants more often than older, established plants. Over time reduce frequency of supplemental water.

The goal

Water is precious, and one of the most important reasons for gardening with locally native plants is to conserve resources. Most native plants die from too much water rather than too little so remember to water thoroughly but infrequently.

Summer hydration

A deep soaking once or twice during the summer can keep a native garden looking more lush and green.

Dry Winters

Water plants during dry winters. Although established native plants may not look stressed during winter, they will have less reserve to help them make it through the rest of the hot, dry year.

Fall and Spring

Watering before and after the wet season can extend the growing period. Wildflower displays can be prolonged in this way.

Sensitive plants

Some natives, such as flannelbush and woolly blue curls, are especially sensitive to root rot. Avoid all summer water, especially if growing in soil without excellent drainage.

Water-loving natives

Plants that naturally grow near water, whether native or not, need water throughout the year. Plants grown in hotter, drier locations than they are naturally found may need supplemental water throughout the year.

Bulbs, dormant plants wildflowers

Avoid summer water for bulbs, wildflowers and dormant plants since the warm, moist conditions lead to rot.