

# URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

## How to reduce flooding in your garden:

Watering your flowers and vegetables is good and helps them grow, but too much water can cause a problem for your plants. If your garden floods easily, or if there is constantly puddles of standing water in your garden area, it can be detrimental to what you are trying to grow. Sometimes, flooding can cause more problems than a drought because unless you utilize container gardening, you can't easily move your plants out of a flooded area. The only thing to do in the moment is wait until the flooding recedes. Here are some tips on how to reduce flooding problems in the garden.



[Garden seed available at ufseeds.com](http://ufseeds.com)

### Causes of flooding:

Sometimes, the cause of the flooding is something simple, like clogged gutters or a clogged drain. Make sure all the rain water has a place to go by clearing out your gutters and your drains.

Other causes of flooding include your garden not being absorbent enough. To increase the absorbency, you can add organic mulch to your garden. Mulch also helps preserve moisture, so it's a good solution to drought problems as well.

Another problem that can cause flooding is if your ground is not aerated, making it very hard and compacted. This prevents the water from being absorbed by the soil. Aerate your yard or garden with a garden fork or an aerator.

### More difficult problems:

Some causes of flooding aren't so simple to fix. Long-term solutions to flooding may be required, then. There are several ways to

put long-term solutions in place so you can avoid flooding in the future.

One example of a long-term solution is to minimize hard surfaces, like concrete, around your garden. When laying a patio, use smaller bricks or slabs and lay them using sand to improve drainage.

Another example is leveling areas that may flood frequently. This means that if the garden slopes, water will then collect in one area, which will increase the likelihood of flooding. Use top soil to level the area.

Another way to solve flooding for the long term is to create a run-off area. Run-off areas are ideal for gardens that are at a high risk for flooding. Creating a run-off area will divert the water to a less problematic area, or an area that has better absorbency to help prevent garden flooding.



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Finally, another long-term solution would be to add drains near your garden. This allows the water to travel away from your garden and into a sewage system instead, but it is a drastic measure since you have to dig up parts of your garden to lay the drains. You also will be required to receive permission from city officials before laying drains, so it can be a lengthy process.



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