

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

How to conserve water in the garden:

While the hot summer sun is a great asset to all fruits, vegetables, trees, flowers and more, too much sun and not enough water can cause a lot of issues as all living things need water to survive as well. It can be a delicate balance between the amount of sun and water, and there are several tactics gardeners can use to conserve water in the garden, especially a drought when water may be limited.

Water-saving methods:

If you want to save on your overall water usage, consider installing a drip irrigation system. This allows water to be delivered directly to the plant's root system which helps prevent runoff and evaporation, which causes water loss. Drip irrigation is easy to install at home.

For those who may not want to go to the hassle of establishing a drip irrigation system, there are other ways to conserve water, such as using water-conserving containers. Many times, potted plants require more frequent watering than those in the ground, but if you opt to water the potted plants and prevent the pots from losing water through the sides.

Cisterns or rain barrels are an excellent way for gardeners to harvest rain. Like drip irrigation systems, these cisterns and rain barrels are easy to install at home with limited materials. The cisterns or rain barrels collect roof runoff when it rains, and this water can then be used to water your garden or lawn at a later date.



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Another way gardeners save on watering is by adding mulch to their flower and vegetable beds. Mulching helps slow water evaporation down. When adding mulch, be sure to add a layer that's 2 or 3 inches deep so it retains soil moisture. Another benefit to mulching is it cuts down on weeds.

One unique water-saving method is to reduce the amount of lawn you have by increasing your outdoor entertainment or dining space. If you have less grass to water, that means you end up spending less on water.

When to water:

Deciding when to water your plants is a big way to prevent water waste, too. When watering pots, do so in the afternoon. This is because research shows if you water pots in the late afternoon, it leads to healthier plants. In the mornings, water the ground plants.



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What to plant:

If you don't want to implement the above methods or reduce your lawn size and you still want to not waste as much water or spend much on water, plant native plants. Native plants are known for their drought tolerance, and they will survive long in drought-like conditions than other plants will.



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