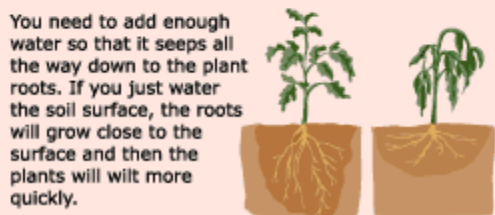




Watering Garden Plants

TO WATER OR NOT TO WATER?

In most areas, rain alone does not meet all the water needs of garden plants. You need to water the garden.



WATERING METHODS

1. A watering can and hose are useful for small gardens.



2. Sprinklers are cheap and convenient, but they waste a lot of water to evaporation, especially on hot, windy days.



Plants are most affected by water stress right after they are planted or transplanted, and while fruits are forming. Root crops, such as beets and carrots, are vulnerable to water stress while the roots are growing.

These tomatoes have blossom end rot because they did not get enough water when they were first planted.



SAVING WATER IN THE GARDEN

Make the most of available water in the garden.

Collect rain water from roof-tops in rain barrels. Keep the rain barrel covered to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.



Add organic matter to the soil. It holds the water, which then can be used by plants.

Water during early morning. At this time temperatures are cooler and it is less windy, so there is less evaporation.



Cover the soil with mulch, which smothers weeds and allows water to seep slowly into the soil. A mulch cover also reduces evaporation of water from the soil.



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