

Water in the Garden

The North Okanagan is a semi-arid desert, so we can't rely on rain to keep a traditional garden green. Here are tips to reduce your water use in the garden and save money.



Water deeply, thoroughly, and less often. This will encourage plant roots to grow deeper to search for water, allowing them to survive periods of drought better.

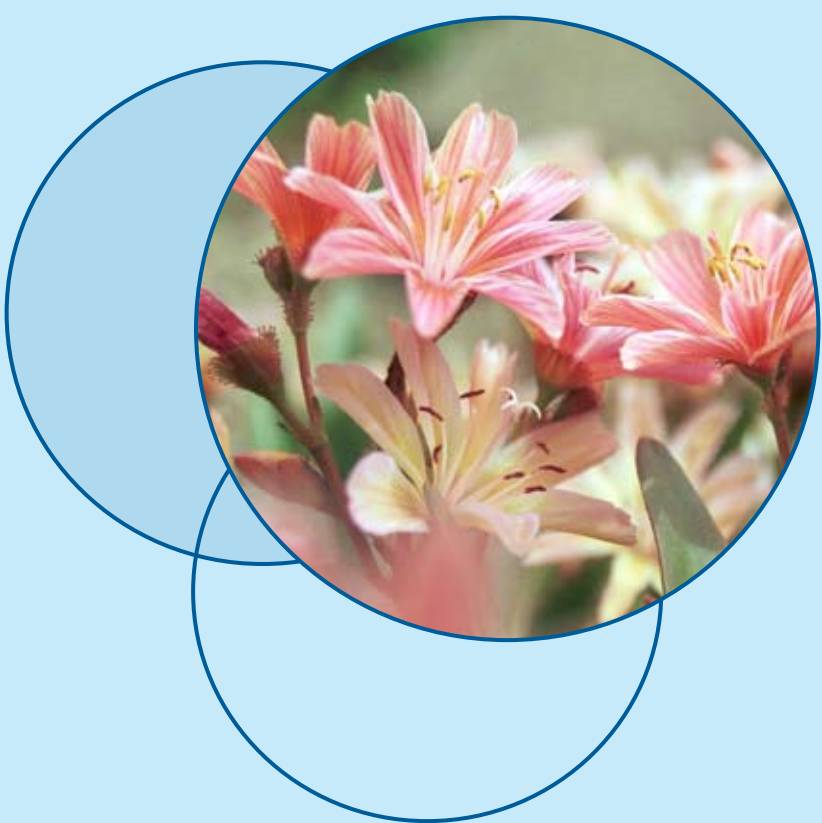
Water your plants as close to their roots as possible to ensure the least amount of water evaporates before your plants can absorb the water. Drip irrigation is a great way to do this.



Watering should be done when the weather is cool and calm. Early morning is best, then evenings.

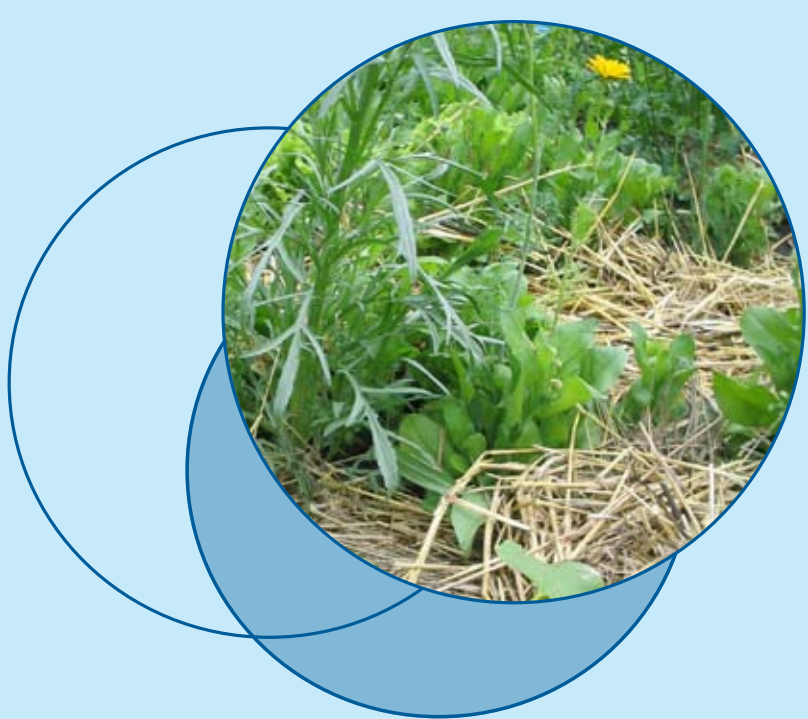
Make sure to turn automatic sprinklers off if the forecast calls for rain or wind. Don't set it and forget it.

Install a rain collection system (*e.g. rain barrels, cisterns*) to capture rain water. You can use this water during a dry spell.



Avoid immediate-release fertilizers that can cause temporary growth, and shallow roots and thatch. Instead use time-release fertilizers or consider fertilizer alternatives (*e.g. compost and grass clippings*).

Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They contain moisture and nitrogen your lawn can use.



Aerate and mulch or top dress your lawn with organic materials. Aeration helps water and nutrients penetrate the soil, and mulch helps retain moisture.

*For more information, see the **Water in the Garden** brochure available inside the Okanagan Science Centre.*