

Water-wise Gardening

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Water-Wise Irrigation

- **What** is the best method of irrigation for your home garden
 - ✓ Drip irrigation (is the most water wise and efficient), furrow, Soaker hoses (also very good), sprinklers (should generally be avoided)
 - ✓ It is wise to use shut off lines on individual irrigation lines. With shut off valves you can control water flow to different plants in your garden
- **How** much to water
 - ✓ Provide enough water to wet the soil to the depth at which most of the roots are found. You can determine how deep the water goes down by using a soil probe or a piece of rebar
 - ✓ Provide enough water for the type of soil that you have. For example, silty or clayey soils have smaller particles; they will need less frequent irrigation because they hold more water
- **When** (frequency) to water
 - ✓ Water early in the day or later in the afternoon because there is less chance for evaporation
 - ✓ The weather also influences how frequently you water. Plants take up more water, and water evaporates from the soil surface more quickly in hot, windy and dry weather
 - ✓ Above all, provide water frequently enough that your plants don't dry out, but not so much that your soil stays wet
- **Container** garden watering
 - ✓ Vegetable plants in containers will need to be monitored closely and watered more frequently than plants growing in the ground
 - ✓ Some plants with large leaves may wilt in the afternoon sun. Providing extra water will not help; put up a temporary or permanent wind break, or provide afternoon shade to sensitive plants to protect them and conserve water
- **Mulch**
 - ✓ Use mulch in your garden bed whenever possible. Mulch not only helps to keep weeds out, but also helps hold water in
- **Typical Irrigation supplies**
 - ✓ Poly tubing, pressure compensating emitters, soaker hoses, emitter fittings, compression fittings