



# Watering Your Garden

## Why water efficiently?

- Overwatering has the same negative effect on garden plants as under watering
- Using less water will save you money
- Conserving water now can help to alleviate the effects of a future draught
- Efficient water use can have great benefits for fragile aquatic ecosystems
- Water is a valuable resource and should be used responsibly

## Good Water Practices

- Water deeply and infrequently
- Watering your garden briefly each day will only wet the surface of the soil. This water will soon evaporate, never reaching the roots of your plants. It is more effective to give your garden a good soaking so that the soil is moist to a depth of 5 or 6 inches, where the roots of the plants are. Water this deep in the soil will take longer to evaporate, so you will not have to water as often.
- Water early in the day.
- Water evaporation is greatest in the middle of the day when the sun is highest.

## Mulch

Putting down a 3 inch layer of mulch decreases evaporation of water from the soil. It also lowers the temperature of the soil, promoting root growth. As an added bonus, mulching can decrease the number of weeds in your garden bed by 90%. KCCG recommends using straw or cotton burr compost for mulch.

## Weeds

Weeds compete with your plants for water. By removing them, your vegetables and flowers will have access to more water.

## Questions

Email at [contact@kccg.org](mailto:contact@kccg.org) or call at 816-931-3877.