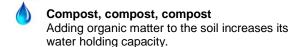


10 Tips for Vegetable Gardening with Less Water



Mulch, mulch, mulch
Covering the surface of the soil decreases the rate of evaporation up to 50% and cuts down on thirsty weeds.

Choose crops you like to eat
Limit your vegetables to the ones your family
likes and will eat.

Plant only as much as you can eat
Limit the number of plants to a reasonable
amount for your uses.

Plant closer to shade between plants
Sun on soil increases evaporation. Shade your
beds with your veggies. Plant in blocks, instead
of rows and reduce spacing between plants.

Inspect irrigation often
Look for leaks and wasted water. Be sure water is getting to the roots of your plants.

Apply water slowly to the base of plants
Be sure your water only goes to the vegetable plants' roots. Water deeply and less often to encourage roots to go deep into the soil.

Water early or late
There is less water loss in the cooler times of day.

Deck soil moisture

Before you water, look at and feel the soil to check dryness, not just at the surface, but 4-6 inches down.

Plant in containers
Less soil needs less water. Water is directed right to plant roots. Put a bucket in your shower and use shower "warm up water" to capture and use water that otherwise would go down the drain. Mix 30% compost into container soil.

For additional drought information, visit our website:

http://pcmg.ucanr.org/Drought_Advice/



University of California Cooperative Extension Placer County

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