













## 10 Tips for Vegetable Gardening with Less Water

-  **Compost, compost, compost**  
Adding organic matter to the soil increases its water holding capacity.
-  **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.
-  **Check 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/](http://pcmg.ucanr.org/Drought_Advice/)



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