

LET'S GROW A WATER SAVING CULTURE IN UK GARDENS



WHY DO WE NEED TO SAVE WATER?

CHANGING WEATHER PATTERNS

The potential for hotter, drier summers will make it more difficult for water companies to meet the increasing demand for tap water. In 2018, England experienced the warmest summer on record with some areas experiencing the driest summer since 1921.

CARBON EMISSIONS

It takes a lot of energy to treat and transport drinking water to our taps and hosepipes. The water industry is the fourth most energy intensive industry in the UK, emitting around 5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases. So saving water is saving carbon too.

POPULATION

Population often grows fastest in the driest regions, squeezing the water resources even more. Trends also show that people use much more water now than in previous decades.

WILDLIFE AND LOCAL RIVERS

There's a direct connection between how much water we use and the health of our local rivers. River levels need to be kept high wherever possible to protect habitats. Chalk streams in particular are home to a wealth of biodiversity and are very fragile if we take too much water out of them.

SAVING MONEY

If its possible in your area it's a good idea to be on a water meter, as the less water you use the less your bills will be. If you're careful with hot water you'll also save money on your energy bill too.



HOW CAN WE SAVE WATER?

LEAVE THE LAWN

There is no need to water your lawn, it will survive a drought. When re-laying a lawn, select a more resilient variety such as tall fescues rather than bent grass. Looking after the soil is the best way to prepare a lawn for drought.

DITCH THE HOSEPIPE

Use a watering can or a rainwater fed, well-controlled drip irrigation system. A sprinkler uses as much in one hour as a person uses in a whole week.

BUILT IN WATER STORAGE

When growing in containers, use 'self watering' ones. The plant absorbs water into the root zone when it needs it. A saucer will also help in dry spells.

ADD MULCH TO SOIL

Add mulch (like homemade compost or wood chip) to the soil at any time of year, especially when the soil is moist as it will stop the surface from drying out.

DOUBLE YOUR WATER BUTT

Make the most of the rain we do have. Connect an extra water butt to your current one with a siphon to collect even more rain.

WATERWISE WATERING

Water in the morning or evening and aim for the roots not the leaves. Plants need less water on cooler or cloudy days. Soil doesn't need to be soaked all the time, plants use less water when less is available.

COLLECT YOUR SPARE WATER AT HOME

Collect the water from your bathroom and kitchen to use on your non edible plants. Leave a bowl in your kitchen sink to remind you.

CREATE A RAIN GARDEN

Link your guttering directly to your garden. It's not suitable for every garden so have a look on the Royal Horticultural Society website for more details.

PICK THE RIGHT PLANTS

Choose the right plant, for the right place, at the right time. Get to know your soil and search 'find a plant' at rhs.org.uk for help and advice.

PLANTS ARE GREAT FOR US AND GREAT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, AS LONG AS WE USE WATER WISELY IT IS ALWAYS GREAT FOR US TO GROW THEM!