

Waterwise Products to use

Soil Improvers:

By adding organic matter or soil improvers to your soil, you'll increase your soil's ability to hold water and nutrients. Importantly you'll be saving water and improving plant growth.

A convenient way of improving your soil is by using Dawson's Organic Soil Improver. This is a blended organic product designed to improve soil quality. Dawson's also stock a range of other organic materials suitable for soil improvement including; animal manures, peats and pine fines.

Mulches:

Mulching is a tremendously beneficial gardening practice. It reduces soil water loss and it's good for plant and soil health.

Dawson's supply a range of mulching products conveniently bagged for easy transport and application. Our range includes; blended mulches, wood chips, barks and saw dusts.

Soil Wetters:

Many Perth soils are slightly water repellent in nature. This means that precious irrigation water runs off the surface and doesn't penetrate the soil deeply. Soil Wetters can help here. These materials when applied to the soil, allow water to penetrate quickly and deeply. Soil Wetters are available in a liquid concentrate form that is mixed with water for application and a granular form which is simply applied by sprinkling over the ground. A convenient click on hose application pack is also available for use on larger areas such as lawns. When using these products, apply during cooler times of the day, taking care to rinse residues off plant foliage and water in well.

Water Holding Granules or Crystals:

These are absorbent materials, which retain moisture, creating a reservoir of water for plant roots to tap into. These products are useful for sprinkling into soil at planting time, placing below roll on turf, incorporating into new or established beds and adding to potting mix. Always apply at recommended rates.

Dawson's Tips for Waterwise Gardening:

- Select Plants with similar water requirements and plant these together in the same area or Watering zone. When planting is carried out with this in mind, it's easy to deliver the right amount of water to your plants.
- Watering frequency will depend on the water requirements of your plants. The Water Corporation recommend the following watering regimes for established plants over Summer;
 - One Drop Zone Plants (Low water users) A standard drink of every 7-14 days
 - Two Drop Zone Plants (Moderate water users) A standard drink every 3-7 days.
 - Three Drop Zone Plants (High water users) A standard drink every 1-2 days.
- Some examples of One drop zone plants (low water users) are; Bougainvillea, Tecoma Capensis, Aptenia, Grevillea, Rosemary, Lavender, Anigozanthos, Conostylis, Adenanthos, Artemisia, Lantana, Melaleuca, Plumbago, Raphiolepis, Callitris, Chamelaucium, Olive, Eucalyptus and Tamarix.
- Many garden favorites are Two Drop Zone Plants or (moderate water users) and once established and properly mulched will survive and thrive on two standard drinks a week. These plants include: Agapanthus, Dietes, Daylilies, Flax, Salvias, Vincas, Diosma, Callistemon, Camellias, Azaleas, Hibiscus and Roses.
- Remember whenever you water to provide the Perth standard drink of 10mm of water to your garden. You can work out how long it takes for your irrigation system to deliver 10mm by placing an ice cream container on the ground and timing how long it takes to fill the container to a depth of 10mm.
- For greatest watering efficiency, water in the evening after 6pm and before 8am in the morning.
- It makes sense and saves water by mass planting your flowering annuals, don't scatter them all around the garden where they are difficult to water.
- Check your irrigation system is in good order and set your controller to operate at the required duration at waterwise times.
- Lift your mower blades slightly, this will allow the lawn to grow taller and conserve water through shading.
- Only use good quality Australian Standard Potting mixes such as Dawson's Garden World Premium Potting Mixture. These quality mixes retain water for longer than cheaper mixes.
- Need more help with waterwise gardening? Our friendly staff are full of information on waterwise plants and gardening. Just Ask!



FORRESTFIELD: Cnr Hale & Hartfield Roads
Phone: 9453 6533
SWANBOURNE: Cnr Windsor & Railway Sts
Phone: 9384 9652
O'CONNOR: 388 South Street
Phone: 9314 7258
JOONDALUP: Cnr Joondalup Dr. & Cord St
Phone: 9300 0733

The Dawson Garden World Waterwise Gardening – Made Easy –

We all want to reduce water use and keep our gardens green and healthy, but what can we do and where do we start? Fortunately waterwise gardening can help!

Waterwise Gardening is all about best utilising and conserving water used in the garden, so that your garden will remain healthy and productive and use less water. Best of all waterwise gardening practices are easy to follow, make use of readily available materials and plants and really work.

Dawson's Garden World promotes **Waterwise Gardening** and is committed to providing a range of waterwise plants and products which will not only help your garden to survive, but thrive.

This leaflet is aimed at providing you with some of the key Waterwise information.

So,
let's get
started....

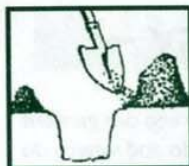


Planting



STEP 1

Water the plant in its pot prior to transplanting.



STEP 2

Dig a hole 60cm wide and 60 cm deep. Mix Dawson's Garden World Organic Soil Improver with the soil from the hole at a rate of 1 part Soil Improver and 2 parts soil from the hole.



STEP 3

Return enough of this mix to the hole to achieve the correct height for the new plant.



STEP 4

Take the plant out of its pot, leaving the root ball intact and place in hole. Add 1 tablespoon of slow release fertiliser around the root ball.



STEP 5

Return more of the mix around the plant until the soil is level, add mulch, leaving a 5cm clearance around the stem. Water in well, ensuring the root zone is thoroughly saturated.

OTHER TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PLANTING:

- For greater water holding capacity, increase amount of Soil Improver added and hole size
- Sprinkle water holding granules in the bottom of the planting hole or apply Soil Wetter after planting to help water retention and penetration.
- Use any left over soil/mulch to make a shallow well around the plant, this will help retain and direct water to the root system.

Watering



FOR NEWLY PLANTED PLANTS DURING THEIR FIRST SUMMER.

Initially plant roots remain in original root ball. As the plant can only draw vital moisture from a very small area, it must be watered regularly to ensure the root system doesn't dry out. When watering ensure root ball is thoroughly saturated as this is the only area from which the plant can draw water. It is the placement of the water that is most important.

Time spent adding soil improvers and wetting agents greatly improves planting success, by helping hold moisture and nutrients around the root system.



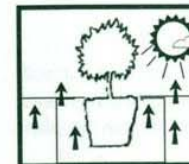
FOR ESTABLISHED PLANTS DURING SECOND SUMMER.

Plant roots have grown into the surrounding soil. The plant can now draw water from a much larger area, allowing it to tolerate longer periods between drinks. Water should now be applied to the drip zone area (the soil area below the plant's canopy) and more infrequent but deep waterings are now beneficial.

Mulch and the use of soil wetters will help retain soil moisture and allow water to penetrate deeply into the soil.



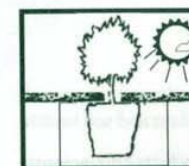
Mulching



WHEN YOU DON'T MULCH

Normally in gardens large amounts of precious irrigation water is lost through evaporation from the soil surface to the atmosphere.

Applying a layer of mulch of between 5-10cm in depth, can reduce soil water loss through evaporation by up to 70%. Mulching saves water and is good for your plants and garden.



MULCH

Mulching has many other benefits including :

- Improved plant growth.
- Breaks down over time, improving soil and feeding plants.
- Encourages worms.
- Suppresses weed growth, reduces soil erosion and looks attractive.

