



***Water - not a drop to spare! It is possible to water twice a week and have a great garden which is healthy and colourful. Just follow these waterwise recommendations and you will save water and also save on your water bills.***

## • Paving

Create some non-planted areas such as paving and mulch. Ensure sprinklers are adjusted to water garden beds and not paving.

## • Shelter

Make use of windbreaks, screens, pergolas, etc, to shelter the house and garden beds.

## • Less lawn

Reduce the size of lawn areas. Native ground covers are attractive and use very little water once established.

## • Plant zones

Group plants with similar water requirements together, and keep planted areas dense to maximise efficiency and shelter individual plants.

## • Drought hardy plants

Choose plants which have low water needs. Australian plants, especially local ones, are well adapted to harsh conditions, and can survive on much less water once established. Plants from dry areas of the world such as South Africa and the Mediterranean are also drought hardy.

## • Improve the soil

Always prepare the soil before planting, by digging in soil improver or well rotted compost. This will ensure precious water is held around the roots for longer.

## • Mulch, mulch, mulch

Mulch everywhere with a coarse mulch such as aged chipped tree prunings.

## • It's automatic

Install an efficient watering system and check it regularly. Monitor and adjust application rates on a regular basis.

## • Gardeners' helpers

1) Soil wetting agents applied to lawn in early summer and again in mid summer will ensure water penetrates to the root zone. Water repellent garden beds will also benefit from an application of soil wetter.

2) Water saving granules added to pots and hanging baskets will create a water reservoir for dry days.

3) Seasol is a great tonic when planting, and for plants which are in need of a little extra care.

## • Choose hardy Australian natives plants

To add some colour to your waterwise garden, plant colourful and hardy native plants - straw flowers, rock daisies, native daphne, native rosemary, native fuchsia, egg and bacon, grevilleas and dwarf bottlebrush. Hybrid kangaroo paws, once established, will flower all through summer with very little water and brighten up any summer garden. Sturt desert peas make a brilliant show and may be purchased from garden centres as seed or seedlings in late November.

*For more information, the Water Corporation has released a comprehensive booklet "The Waterwise Gardening Guide", by John Colwill, which is available at garden centres and irrigation outlets.*