

Global Gardeners Mini Guide

Watering Basics for Beginner Gardeners



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How do you know when your plant needs water?

The #1 Method: The Finger Test

The easiest way to check if your plant needs water is the **Finger Test**.

Stick your finger into the soil about **1 inch deep**.

- If the soil feels **dry**, water it.
- If the soil feels **wet or damp**, do **not** water yet.



It is a simple method that anyone can learn, and it helps prevent overwatering.

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Watering Potted Plants



Potted plants usually dry out faster than plants in the ground, so check them often.

But do not water every time you check.

Use The Finger Test first:

- Dry soil = water
- Wet soil = wait

With time, you will learn how quickly each pot dries out based on the plant, pot size, light, and weather.



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Watering In-Ground Plants



- It is best to water early in the morning or later in the evening, when the sun is not as strong. This helps reduce water loss from heat and sun.



- Plants growing in the ground usually do best with deep watering. Deep watering helps moisture reach the roots and encourages stronger root growth.



- Apply organic mulch (straw, wood chips, shredded leaves) to retain moisture by reducing surface evaporation and keeping the soil cooler.



- Adjust your watering to the Season & Weather
 - **Spring/Fall** ~ Water when soil dries; often weekly or less if rain is regular
 - **Summer** ~ Increase frequency during heat waves; water more often but still deeply
 - **Winter** ~ Reduce watering unless plants need it and soil is dry; many plants go dormant.

Helpful Watering Tips



- **Always check the soil first & then water with confidence.**
- **Containers dry out faster than garden beds so check them often.**
- **Water your inground plants deeply instead of only giving them tiny sips.**
- **Morning or evening is often the best time to water.**
- **Make sure pots have drainage holes ~ Plants need oxygen!**
- **Learn how to check your plant's needs properly instead of watering on a schedule.**

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Ready to Grow?

The best watering habit is simple:

Check the soil first.

Use The Finger Test.

Water when needed.

With a little practice, you will get better at knowing what your plants need.



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