

Saving Water in the Garden

[Water Efficiency Labels](#)

[Tools of the trade – water efficient products](#)



Water use outside the house

- Sweep the path rather than hosing it down.
- Wash the car on the lawn using a trigger nozzle rather than watering your cement.
- Wash the dog and your bike on the lawn as well.
- If you have an evaporative air conditioner, direct the water run off (bleed) onto your lawn.
- Fix any dripping taps immediately – a tap that drips one drop each second will waste 30 litres a day.



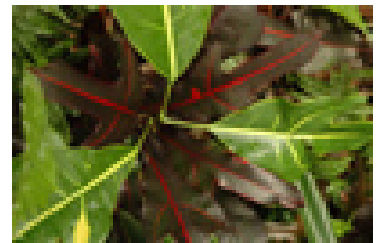
Water wise gardening in the Territory

Being water wise doesn't mean you have to compromise having a beautiful garden.

Here are some tips that can help you make the most of your water in the garden.

Plant Selection

- Choose plant species native to where you live. They will be more tolerant to the weather conditions and attract more wildlife to your garden.
- Generally Australian natives are water efficient.
- Think about removing some of your water hungry plants and replace them with water efficient species.
- Try to put plants with the same watering requirements together to make planning your irrigation system easier.



Watering

- Water the garden at night or early in the morning so less water evaporates.
- Always use a tap timer when watering so you don't forget to turn it off.
- Install drip irrigation to water your plants, it delivers water directly to the roots of the plants.
- Do not water when it is windy.
- If you are hand watering, use a trigger nozzle. It gives you a variety of spray options and you won't waste water as you move between plants.
- Understand how much water your garden needs so you don't waste water.

Soil conditioning

- Good soil means better plant health and better water retention.
- If you have lots of worms in your soil, it's a good indicator you have healthy soil.
- Use organic fertilisers in your garden to improve your soil condition. Talk to your local [Nursery and Garden Industry Northern Territory \(NGINT\)](#) nursery professional about what you should use.

Mulch

- Mulch reduces evaporation and increases the water retention of your garden.
- As mulch breaks down, it also adds to the nutrient content of your garden as well.

Your lawn

- Don't mow your lawn too short. By leaving it longer, the roots will be shaded and less water will evaporate.
- Understand the soil conditions in your area and your lawns watering requirements so you don't over water. Check with your local NGINT nursery professional.
- Don't water your lawn if it has been raining.

For more information, download a free copy of:



How to create water wise garden
in the Top End



Green Guide



Water Wise Action in
Central Australia