

Garden Watering Guidelines

CURLY COMMUNITY GARDEN Inc

1. When to Water

- Sydney Water Restrictions state that watering must occur before 10am or after 4pm. This is due to high evaporation rates between these times, which wastes water and causes plants to dry out.

2. Watering Techniques

- Before watering, test the soil moisture using your finger or a Moisture Meter. Only water if dry!
- Water at the base of the plant. If possible, avoid spraying the leaves, to minimise plant disease.
- Water around the root zone, not just at the stem of the plant, to encourage root growth and prevent root rot.
- You may want to water the entire bed lightly and then go back and water it again to help water soak in thoroughly.
- Give larger plants and trees, including passionfruit and kiwifruit, more water (water for a total of about 25 seconds, in two installments of about 10 seconds, to help water soak in thoroughly).
- Use the trigger nozzle to turn off the water when going between beds or plants.
- Use common sense – e.g. reduce water flow when watering seedlings or give a dry-looking bed extra water.

3. Filling Soil Wicking Beds – Beds 6, 7, 9, 13, 14,17, 19 and 25

- Check the water level in the pipe. If there is less than 1cm or no water in it, the bed needs filling.
- Use the hose to fill the pipe as high as possible. Don't remove the trigger nozzle due to water restrictions
- Leave the water to soak into the soil and return in 15-30 mins and fill the pipe with water again.
- Wait another 15-30 minutes and, if necessary, fill the pipe one more time. The maximum water depth is ~10cm.

4. Filling Sand Wicking Beds – Beds 16 and 18

- Use the hose to fill the pipe until water starts pouring out of the outlet at the opposite end of the bed.

5. Watering with Seaweed Solution

- Seaweed solution is used to promote root growth in plants.
- Add a HALF scoop of seaweed powder to one 9L watering can.
- Use about one 9L watering can to water one large raised bed if it is full of plants.
- Water around the root zone of plants. Bare areas (mulch/soil) do not need to be watered with seaweed solution.
- Beds with seeds in them do not need to be watered with seaweed solution.