

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. Which Beds to Water

- Always follow the watering signs.
- Generally, water only non-wicking beds, unless it contains seeds or small seedlings, there is a sign that says otherwise or the bed is very dry.
- Before watering, test the soil moisture using your finger or a Moisture Meter. Only water if dry.

Yes – Water these (if required)	No – Don't water these (unless they say "Water Me" or have seeds or small seedlings)
● Non-wicking beds (without a plastic lining or pipe) ● Beds with "Water me" signs (even wicking beds) ● The 4 small herb beds (Beds 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D) ● The herb spiral ● All in-the-ground planting areas (east and west meadows, east and west patches, A-frame, teepees, rhubarb/asparagus bed, beside the shed) ● All plants in pots	● Wicking beds (with a plastic lining and pipe) ● Beds with "Do not water" signs (even non-wicking) ● Food Forest (unless you've been assigned to water it)

3. Watering Techniques

- 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.

4. Observations

If you see anything strange or notice tasks that need to be done at the garden (for example, a pest infestation), depending on the urgency, you can:

- Text or call Val (0431 872 030) or Louise (0414 909 378).
- Send an email to info@curlycommunitygarden.org.au.

5. In the Case of Rain

- If it has rained very heavily, don't worry about watering the garden.
- In the case of lighter rain, visit the garden to check bed dampness by fully inserting your finger or using the Moisture Meter in a few different beds. If the bed feels a little dry, please still water.
- If rain has come after a dry spell, watering after rain can really help ensure the water reaches deep into the soil.

6. Other Watering Duties

- Please rinse out and refill the birdbath to keep the water fresh.

7. Watering Roster

- The watering roster is sent out fortnightly with each volunteer assigned one shift.
- If you can't make your assigned day, contact the Watering Team Manager by email.
- If you forget to water the garden, advise the manager. But don't panic, the garden will survive.

Garden Watering Guidelines – At Working Bees Only

1. Filling Soil Wicking Beds (at Working Bees only) – 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.
 - 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.
2. Filling Sand Wicking Beds (at Working Bees only) – 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.
3. 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.