

Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter:

A Comprehensive Guide to Watering Your Garden for All Seasons



WARNER'S
NURSERY

Watering well is the cornerstone of your garden's success

Watering your garden is essential for its health and your happiness.

Keeping your garden well-hydrated increases your yield – whether you're growing flowers or tomatoes – and has a domino effect on your ecosystem by attracting pollinators that help your garden flourish.

In this guide, you will find comprehensive information to help you water your garden well all year long, including best practices, tips, and timelines to make sure your watering stays simple and sustainable.

Planning Your Water-Wise Garden

A water-wise landscape is functional, attractive, easily maintained, and most importantly, it helps to conserve water. Here are three general tips to consider when planning your garden:

1

MINIMIZE 'THIRSTY' PLANTS

As a general rule of thumb: the broader the leaf, the more water a plant will need. Turf grass is also very thirsty, so reducing or eliminating the presence of these kinds of flora will set the tone for your water-conscious efforts.

2

CONSIDER NATIVE OR DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

At Warner's Nursery, you can find a variety of plants well-suited to northern Arizona and your particular microclimate. Pair native plants with trees to lower air and soil temperatures, resulting in reduced plant and soil moisture loss.

3

GROUPING PLANTS THOUGHTFULLY

When selecting trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials, and annuals, look for those that naturally grow together and require similar amounts of water.



#1 Hack to Water Wisely? Drip Irrigation.

The best way to water in a high-desert climate like northern Arizona is to use **drip irrigation**.

Drip irrigation efficiently waters your garden the way that plants prefer: slowly and in the amount that causes the least stress and maximizes growth. This practice lets measured amounts of water out of the hose at the root system over a longer period of time. Drip irrigation allows the water to penetrate the entire root system and trains the roots to grow deeply, helping plants to ultimately become more resilient.



When gardeners employ drip irrigation in their gardens, they experience no erosion and very little evaporation loss. It also allows for air in the soil, which often gets drowned out by sprinklers or hand watering, and in turn can result in pests or diseases that harm your plants.

Watering Schedule

In general, the best practice is to water in the morning when possible on a slow drip for 10 to 30 minutes. The following charts are suggestions for watering your garden:

Trees & Shrubs

Week 1 to 3	Generous watering each day (slow drip for 20 to 30 minutes). During warm, dry months, 2 or 3 watering sessions per day may be necessary.
Week 4 to Sept. 31	Water once every other day.
First Winter	Once every 3 to 4 weeks.
Year 2 to 3: April through August	2 to 3 times per week.
Year 3 and Forward: Summer	1 to 2 times per week.
Year 3 and Forward: Winter	Once every 3 to 4 weeks, unless there is snow pack covering the ground

1 Gallon Shrubs & Perennials

Week 1	2 times per day.
Week 2 to 3	Once each day. During warm, dry months, 2 or 3 watering sessions per day may be necessary.
Week 4 to Sept. 31	Once every other day.
Year 2 Forward	Check ground moisture often (daily in the summer, weekly in the winter) to determine watering needs.

Vegetable Gardens

In Season	2 times per day provide a generous soaking with a drip irrigation system for 10 to 30 minutes each time.
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Other Notes on Watering Well

Rainwater: The general rule of thumb is that it needs to rain at least an inch a week to provide enough water for your garden. Outside of monsoon season, northern Arizona typically does not see that type of rainfall, so watering is essential.

Snowfall: Did you know - One foot of snow is equal to one inch of rain? Therefore, some light snows may not be enough to give plants their required moisture.

Containers: Garden plants in containers, hanging baskets, or raised beds may dry out more quickly than those planted directly in the ground and may require more frequent watering.

Remember: this is only a guide. Watering requirements may change depending on weather conditions, especially during the hot, dry days of summer, when plants may require more watering. If you have any questions or concerns about your garden, please stop into Warner's Nursery and talk to one of our associates. We are happy to help!

