

## Growing Vegetables When Water is Scarce

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Hot dry summers can present as much of a challenge for Maritime Northwest gardeners as long cool springs. In this class we will:

- Explore of growing vegetables during drought-like summers.
- Learn about simple techniques for conserving water, delivering water to plants and enriching the soil so it retains moisture longer.
- Explore vegetable varieties that are better suited to hot weather and
- Discover other practices for successful growing.

### Plants that like hot weather

All of these will need some water. Annual crops will need weekly water through the season but will hold up under hot weather. In very hot, dry years the perennial herbs will need some water.

- Right Plant, Right Place
- Right Plant, Right Time
- Wait to plant new perennials, shrubs and trees until fall or early next spring.
- Avoid cool season crops such as brassicas, lettuce, spinach, cilantro
- Heat-loving vs long-season
- Typical summer annual vegetables and flowers such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beans, potatoes, basil, carrots, corn, beets, squash, zinnias, sunflowers
- Hardy perennial herbs such as rosemary, sage, thyme, chives, parsley, salsify

### Build Healthy Soil

- Have a stash of compost to use as a top dressing during the summer
- Mulch. Add 2-3 inches of woodchip mulch around perennials, shrubs, trees and plants that are typically drought-tolerant.
- Fertilize with liquid or slow-release organic fertilizer

### Add Contours

Slow and sequester water with Stormwater features – this recharges our aquifer  
 Rain garden, berms, swales, and dry stream beds

### Watering

Water, water, water – be consistent about how often and how much

- ✓ It takes time and it is a wet, dirty job
- ✓ Water deeply and less frequently
- ✓ Give most plants the right amount of water -- 1-2 gallons of water per week per plant
- ✓ Water in morning or evening. Morning watering will heat up soil, evening watering will cool things down
- ✓ Water the soil not the plant

## Watering Tools

Best tools for the job – few moving parts, parts are replaceable.  
Don't buy based on color, price or promise of ease.

### Essential water tools

brass ball valve, water breaker, sprinkler, lead-free hose, drip lines, drip irrigation main assemble, manual and automatic timers and watering cans

### Leak-free tool kit

Channel locks for tightening the hose fittings

Hose clamps

Replacement swivels

Gaskets – for all your attachments

Combo wrench or socket wrench

## Watering Systems

- Set up simple drip lines or homemade drip jugs
- Complicated automated systems
- Watering my hand with hose or watering can
- Hybrid systems

## Resources

### Garden Questions

The Garden Hotline (206) 633-0224 <http://gardenhotline.org/question/>

UW Center for Urban Horticulture – Gardening Help

<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/center-for-urban-horticulture/resources/gardening-help/>

WSU Master Gardeners King County – Gardening Help

<https://extension.wsu.edu/king/gardening/>

## Books

*Maritime Northwest Garden Guide, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* by Lisa Taylor, 2014.

*Your Farm in the City, An Urban Dwellers Guide to Growing Food and Raising Animals* by Lisa Taylor, 2011.

*Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* by Russell Link, 2004.

*Drip Irrigation for Every Landscape and All Climates, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* by Robert Kourik, 2009.

*The Ruth Stout No-Work Garden Book* by Ruth Stout, 1973

*Edible Landscaping* by Rosalind Creasy, 2010

*Winter Gardening in the Maritime Northwest* by Binda Colebrook, 2013

## Tool Companies Offering Quality Tools

A.M. Leonard, Horticulture Tool Supply Co. [www.amleo.com](http://www.amleo.com)

Drip Works irrigation supplies, [www.dripworks.com](http://www.dripworks.com)

Dramm watering tools, [www.dramm.com](http://www.dramm.com)

Lee Valley Tools, [www.leevalley.com](http://www.leevalley.com)