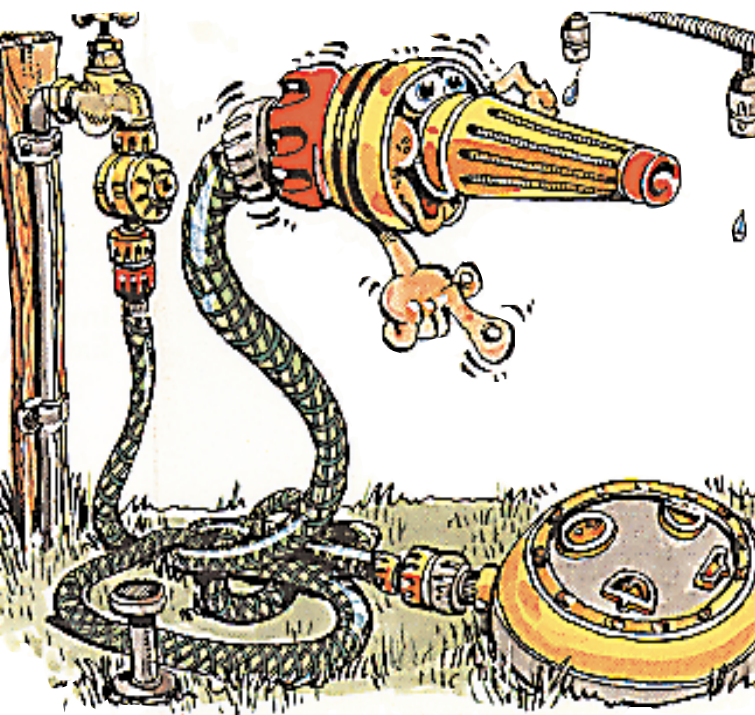


# WaterWise Watering and Irrigation Systems



**WESTERN  
WATER**





There is a wide range of watering systems currently available on the market, ranging from the sophisticated, to the simple hose and sprinkler. No matter which system you use, there are a number of basic rules to follow when using a garden irrigation system:

- Water in the early evening or early morning because less water is lost through evaporation. (Never water in the heat of the day. It wastes water and can lead to plant damage from burning).

*Disease susceptible plants such as tomatoes should only be watered in the morning so leaves are as dry as possible at night.*

- Water the roots, not the leaves of your plants. (Plants absorb water and nutrients through their root system, so the most efficient way to water is to deliver the water direct to the roots).
- Don't water when it is raining. (People with automatic watering systems need to pay particular attention to ensure these systems are switched off during rainy periods).
- Do not water paths or driveways.

*WaterWise irrigation is about delivering the right amount of water, at the right time, to the right place.*

How much water you apply and how often you irrigate depends on the type of plants, type of soil, climate and the time of year.

Your irrigation professional or local nursery will be able to offer you advice on how long to water and how often to water your plants.

## Hose and Sprinkler Users

Gardeners using hoses and sprinklers can be as efficient as those who have automatic irrigation systems, simply by planning their watering and sticking to a pattern.

Tips for reducing water use when using a hose and sprinkler include:

- Use a tap timer so you can't overwater if you forget to turn off the hose.
- Make sure your hose, sprinkler and fittings are in good condition. Repair leaks and tighten up the fittings.
- Use a part circle sprinkler close to buildings and roads to avoid overspray onto paving.

## Improving Water Efficiency with Your Existing Automatic Irrigation System

If you already have an automatic system, there are many ways you can save water and still maintain a healthy garden.

Some tips include:

- Check the system for nozzle blockages, or to see if foliage is interrupting spray patterns.
- Replace the nozzles if they are worn.
- If you notice a dry patch, put in an extra sprinkler - don't overwater the rest to compensate.
- Check the operating pressure. The pressure can change over the years and your system may need changes to cope with a lower, or even higher pressure, to remain efficient.



## What to Look for When Purchasing a New Irrigation System

An automatic irrigation system can be a great way of increasing your leisure time, efficiently watering your garden and saving water.

A few things to check which will ensure trouble-free system operation and years of water savings.

- Ensure the person designing the system is an Irrigation Association of Australia (I.A.A.) member. This is a voluntary industry association, but they can help should any conflict arise.
- Look carefully at the plan. It should have separate sections for lawns and gardens. The sprinklers should throw away from the road, drive, house, paving etc.
- Get a written quote and buy a multi-program controller, which separates lawns and gardens.
- Fit a master valve and ensure the plumbing connection is done by someone qualified.
- Find out the application rate of the different sprinklers used in the system so that you can schedule your controller. Your irrigation specialist can provide this information.
- Question the selection of sprinklers - are they best suited to your application?
- Use micro-irrigation in garden beds and drippers on native plants.
- If you are in a windy location, use a large droplet size sprinkler to minimise wind drift.
- Ask for the features of the controller to be fully explained. Make sure it lets you water lawns and gardens separately.

*For maximum water efficiency,  
change the setting each season.*

## **Victorian gardeners use 406,800,000 litres of water a day**

*The “WaterWise in the Garden” initiative has been introduced to help gardeners reduce their water consumption.*

### **The Benefits of Being WaterWise**

There are three major benefits to being WaterWise in your garden:

*A WaterWise Gardener will Save Money ...*

When we save water, we save money. By applying the “WaterWise in the Garden” ideas, you have the potential to cut your outdoor water use by up to 50% whilst still maintaining a green, pleasant and rewarding garden.

*A WaterWise Garden is a Low Maintenance Garden ...*

With smaller lawn areas, clever use of mulching and landscaping and a well designed irrigation system, WaterWise gardens are a *lot less work* than conventional gardens.

*A WaterWise Garden is more natural and helps to save our environment ...*

A WaterWise Gardener helps save our environment by:

- Reducing use of fertilisers and chemicals.
- Reducing water run-off to the stormwater system (which runs straight into our waterways).
- Helping to delay the need for further dams.

**WaterWise Gardening ...  
Benefiting the Individual  
and the Community**

# WaterWise Gardening

Saves Water  
Saves Work  
Saves Money and  
Saves Our Environment

## Want More Information?

The “WaterWise in the Garden” initiative is designed to help gardeners by providing expert information on how to maintain a high quality garden but at the same time conserve water. Western Water and the Nursery Industry Association of Victoria are eager to help Victorian gardeners to be WaterWise.

For further advice, information and practical assistance on water conservation in the garden, speak to your local nursery industry professional or call:

Western Water  
1300 650 425



Nursery Industry  
Association of  
Victoria  
(03) 9576 0599

### Brochures available in this series

- WaterWise Watering & Irrigation Systems
  - Successful Pot Plants Using Less Water
- How to Identify Water Efficient Plants at a Glance
- You Can Have Beautiful Flowers and Still Conserve Water
  - Saving Water and Money with Your Existing Lawn
    - Water Efficient Shrubs