

Growing Vegetables During a Drought

“A healthy vegetable garden and annual flower garden can use less or about the same amount of water as a lawn does. If you replaced your lawn with a vegetable garden, and watered the garden efficiently by hand or with a drip system, you could see **reduced** water use if you are efficient.”

Denverwater.org

You can have a successful vegetable garden with only watering two days a week! By watering properly and developing strong roots, you can have a great lawn and garden. Check out the tips below to ensure smart water consumption and a bountiful harvest.

- Amend your soil. Adding organic matter, particularly compost, will give better root penetration, greater water retention in your soil, as well as many other beneficial effects.
- Focus on spring crops such as carrots, beets, radishes, lettuce, etc. They can be planted very early and take advantage of spring moisture, and may not need to be watered much at all.
- Use a 3 to 4 inch layer of mulch around all your plants. This will suppress weeds that compete for moisture and nutrients. It will also keep your soil cool and moist by insulating it from sun and drying winds. You will realize increased soil fertility and better structure as well with using organic mulches. Even moisture conditions provided by mulch will also lessen the likelihood of gardening problems such as cracking or blossom end rot on tomatoes.
- Use drip systems or hand water judiciously. Drippers are extremely efficient, and if utilized with timers, will save you time as well as water.
- Water in the evening or at night. This will minimize evaporation and put the water to work growing your plants.
- Plant in wide rows or blocks. This will minimize open areas between plants, allow plants to shade the soil, and increase the ratio of plants to soil allowing for more efficient utilization of water, and your garden space.
- Pull those weeds! Weeds compete for light, nutrients and especially for water.
- Choose drought resistant plants – squash, potatoes, tomatoes, corn, snap and pole beans, New Zealand spinach, eggplant, chard, etc.
- Plant plants with similar water requirements together. This allows you to water efficiently using drip-lines that can be configured with different emitters or spacing to put the right amount of water into each hydrozone to ensure neither over or under-watering plants with different water requirements.
- Protect your garden from drying prevailing winds. Our winds come from the West in summer (southwest). Fences, hedges, the leeward side of the house are all good windbreak areas to plant.

[Click here for the information regarding Lehi City's water restrictions.](#)