

Wise watering

With the 'big dry' upon many parts of the country, attention is turned to how to keep the garden alive, healthy and attractive through our driest time of year. Installing an efficient watering system is a good place to start, but there are a few other tricks to employ as well...

Irrigation made simple

A properly installed irrigation system delivers water exactly when and where it's required, reducing water wastage, time spent watering and your water bill!

Micro-spray irrigation is the most commonly installed type of irrigation system and well suited to all in-ground garden areas. It delivers a gentle spray mist via a range of different spray heads, which can be configured to suit the shape of the garden.

Drip irrigation is the most water efficient system. It operates effectively under low water pressure and delivers a trickle of water deep into the root zone. It is ideal for watering containers, hanging baskets, hedges and large trees and shrubs, which require more water than smaller plants. Run-off is practically nil and drip irrigation is not affected by wind and evaporation, making it suitable for exposed sites.

Pop-up irrigation is the best choice for lawns. Spray heads are installed level with the lawn surface and 'pop-up' when water pressure fills them.

Commence with a Starter Pack and add on extra components as required.



Mulch me please!

A thick duvet of mulch is the best protection against dry soil and weeds. It is ideally applied in early spring, but can be laid at any time of year. Firstly, remove all weeds (by hand or spraying). If the soil is soft enough, fork through compost and blood and bone. Water thoroughly and lay a 10 – 15cm layer of fine bark mulch, taking care to keep mulch away from plant stems.

Tips and tricks for wise watering:

- Water in early morning
- Add compost to your soil frequently to increase water holding capacity
- Plant groundcovers as natural mulch
- Replace leaky taps and fittings
- Group plants with the same watering needs
- Plant the driest areas with drought tolerant plants
- Water the soil – not the leaves
- Apply water slowly enough for the soil to absorb the water
- Use a watering wand with shower head
- Test soil moisture to determine if watering is required

