

Water-wise gardens, which encourages the planting of plants that are suitable for the specific area and don't require excess watering:

It is important to organise gardens carefully so that water saving can be maximised and maintenance kept low. The following points can help going into this direction:

- Group plants with similar watering needs as this helps to ensure they all receive the correct amount of water.
- Select local natives, and other water wise plants and lawns because they use less water, and require low maintenance
- Remember not to mow your lawn too short leave grass 2cm or higher and maintain this length by cutting only the top third of the leaf area in dry conditions, leave the clippings on the lawn to keep moisture in the ground.
- Use mulch around plants to help the soil retain water and reduce evaporation by up to 70%
- Spread mulch evenly up to 3-4cm deep to insulate roots from heat as well as reduce weed growth.
- Fine textured mulches are better at moisture retention than coarse textured mulches.

Application: in all gardens
Ease: Depending on existing garden
Availability: 5/5

Factors to consider:

Retrofitting

Cost: no extra costs just careful planning

Payback: save on irrigation



"Various means such as mulching, shade, efficient irrigation methods and hardscape surfaces can be used to make the established landscape, as well as a new landscape, more water efficient."