



## Water well

The following three steps will make sure you water your garden well:

1. If you use a hose, use low pressure and only apply water to the base of the plant. Spraying water into the air and watering the leaves is pointless and wasteful.
2. Install a drip irrigation system that delivers water directly to the roots of your plant. Visit your local hardware store and ask for advice on how to install a drip irrigation system.
3. Make sure you water at the right time of day. Never water in the middle of the day as the water applied is lost through evaporation and may damage your plants. The best time to water is at dusk.

### Further information

For further information or inquiries, please contact LEC.

**p:** (03) 6331 8406

**f:** (03) 6331 8418

**e:** [info@lec.org.au](mailto:info@lec.org.au)

**w:** [www.lec.org.au](http://www.lec.org.au)

### References:

1. Australian Greenhouse Office from <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/technical/fs20.htm>
2. Water Wise Gardening, Office of Sustainability, ACT.

LEC

34 Cameron Street  
Launceston 7250  
Tasmania  
Australia  
abn: 95 822 100 124

(03) 6331 8406

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[www.lec.org.au](http://www.lec.org.au)



Launceston Environment Centre



# WATER

Tassie WaterSaver Initiative

The Garden  
saving water

TASSIE WATERSAVERS

# *“Working to protect the environment and the way of life in Tasmania”*

## The garden

Tassie WaterSavers is an initiative of the LEC to make Tasmania a world leader in water management. It is a positive, pro-active campaign that will provide educational services to the community.

### **Saving Water in the Garden**

Water resources in Tasmania are stretched. With no attention over the years to water efficiency, a long dry period, climate change and major land use changes means we have to be more careful with how we use water.

Tassie WaterSavers, a campaign by the LEC, will teach you how to address these issues and lower water consumption in Tasmania's north by 15%.

The LEC is challenging you to become a Tassie WaterSaver and start saving water today. Are you up for it?

### **Start Outdoors**

Up to 60%<sup>1</sup> of household water use is used in the garden. By following some or all of the following steps you can start making huge water savings today.

## What you can do

### **The Lawn**

If you water regularly, then up to 90% of water use in the garden will be going on the lawn. Therefore, if you reduce the size of your lawn, water use in your home will drop instantly.

Replace large lawns with Tasmanian ground coverings and not only will you save water, local birds and wildlife will also benefit.

Select a variety of lawn that requires minimal watering.

### **Mulch, mulch, mulch!**

Did we mention mulch? By applying a 75mm layer<sup>2</sup> of mulch over your garden beds you will water less.

Mulch reduces evaporation, helps prevent water from running off the garden beds and keeps the soil cooler during summer months.

Weed growth is also inhibited which reduces competition in the garden beds for water.

## The right plants

### **Choose the right plants**

By choosing the right plants, water use in the garden can be greatly reduced.

Try plants that are indigenous to your area as they are better placed to cope with local conditions.

Contact the LEC for a list of plants that are best suited to grow in your area.

Group plants together with similar watering needs.

Keep your garden beds weed free as they use the water you apply meaning you have to use more to keep the plants you want healthy.

### **Never hose down hard surfaces**

A simple way of saving water and doing some exercise at the same time is to sweep clean hard surfaces instead of hosing them down.

If you have leaves in the driveway then get out the broom, never the hose.

In most states the hosing of hard surfaces has been banned as it is such a wasteful exercise.