



## WATER SAVING TIPS

As water restrictions tighten, and rain fall becomes less frequent, we are being asked to become more water smart. But what is being water smart. For many people this would mean that they would have to sacrifice the garden that they have put a great deal of time and money into. But we at **Nuway** want you to get the most out of the amount that you are able to use and not have to sacrifice any part of your garden. We have included a few tips on how to become water smart.

### Guide to Watering

The best advice that can be given for watering is to water deeply and less often.

This encourages deep root growth rather than lightly and more frequently, which will only encourage the roots to rise to the soil surface and dry out more easily.



By using wetting agents you can improve the water penetration into the soil, reduce dry stops, save water by reducing runoff and increasing absorption and reduce the leaching of fertilizers. It is also advised that a small amount of wetting agent is added in the hole of a new plant to help establish root growth.

At **Nuway** we recommend Wetta Soil in the granular form, it is slowly released over six months during rain or irrigation and costs as little as 30c per square metre per year.

### Wetting Agents

Organic soils and potting mixes are prone to becoming water repellent due to their main ingredients having very little absorbency. Wetting agents help them become less water repellent. As wetting agents break the surface tension of water droplets, they allow them to move through the soil to the roots of the plants, where the water is needed the most.

Unfortunately they do not change the structure of the soil; they will therefore not help if the area has inherently poor drainage.

### Benefits of Mulching

Over the years mulching has become the most popular development in garden maintenance and is an essential part of any garden, some may say the most important.

The three main functions of mulching are:

- it traps the water that hits the soil and reduces evaporation;

- it prevents weed growth by restricting light at the soil surface;
- it modifies soil temperatures by cooling or warming the soil.

**Nuway** carries two types of mulches, they are *Organic* and *Decorative*. *Organic Mulches* consist of materials that will break down quickly and add to the soil structure. This will increase the water and nutrient-holding capacity of the soil.

**Nuway's** large range of *Organic Mulches* includes the top of the line Red Cypress which is termite and white ant resilient, Tea Tree which is triple cut and produces a fantastic aroma and Pine Fines which is also good as soft fall for playgrounds. The more economical *Organic Mulches* are Rainforest and Sugar Cane Bales.

*Decorative Mulches* will also biodegrade as the organic mulches do, just not as fast, but as their title explains they are more decorative than the organics. In the **Nuway** range they include Pine Bark in a few different sizes, Woodchip in both Hardwood and Cypress and excellent slop coverers such as Hoop Pine.

The best time to mulch is when your soil is completely weed free and well watered. How thickly you apply the mulch depends on the type of mulch used. **Nuway** recommends that you apply at least 5cm of mulch (10cm in pots); this will prevent weed growth and water evaporation.

## Drought-tolerant Plants

When you think of drought-tolerant plants, you don't automatically think



of flowers and colour, but it is certainly a possibility and when choosing plants, keep in mind their country of origin. Many plants from Southern Africa, the

Mediterranean, California and our local area thrive in dry summer heat.

Here are some suggestions for water wise plants.

Perennials: *Euphorbia* species, *Salvias* such as *Mexican Sage*, *Statice* also known as *Sea Lavender* and *Jerusalem Sage*.

Roses: Old species such as the *Rosa Rugosa* cultivars are particularly successful in dry conditions.

Ground Covers: *African Daisy* in any form or colour, *Achillea Tomentosa*, *Ajuga* and *Hibbertias* such as *H. Scandens*.

Shrubs: *Pomegranate*, *Rondeletia amoena*, *Rosemary*, *Oleander* and *Indian Hawthorn* such as *Rhaphiolepis x delacourii*.

Succulents: *Agave attenuata* and *filifera*, *Aloe species*, *Sedum species*, *Echeveria species* and *Yucca species*.

Super-Tough: *Bromeliads*, *Bird of Paradise* and many *herbs* with grayish or grey-green leaves.

