



# WATERING YOUR GARDEN

Watering with a hose: Garden guide

Watering your garden is quick and easy. Follow these steps to ensure that your garden is watered properly and it will thrive!

## Step 1: Assess Soil Moisture

Before you water, test the soil moisture level by digging a small hole in the soil with your finger, approximately 2 inches deep. Assess the moisture level with your finger. Ideally, you want the soil to feel damp (not soaked or dry). Test the soil moisture in several different places to assure you get an accurate reading.



## Step 2: Attach your hose and set your hose sprayer on the "shower" setting

Your Learning Garden soil should be watered as gently as possible. Many hose settings are too strong and will move or damage your seeds and seedlings so check the pressure first. Plants absorb water through their roots, and wet leaves can grow plant diseases, so aim for the garden soil that surrounds each of your plants.



## Step 3: Water without flooding

As you water, keep the hose moving in a regular pattern that avoids water pooling or running along the surface of the garden, but rather allows the soil to absorb water as it's applied. Depending on how dry your soil is, you can expect to cover each area of soil about 2-4 times.

**\*Be especially careful not to let water pool or run if you are watering seeds! Seeds easily shift or float away.\***

## Step 4: Assess how well you have watered

The water needs of a specific plant will change as it grows. Younger plants will absorb water at the surface of the soil because their roots are shallow. Older plants will have deeper and wider root systems that extend deep into the soil - these plants will require less frequent, but deeper watering to reach the entire root system. When you think your Learning Garden has been watered sufficiently, check the soil moisture level again to be sure.

**\*As a rule, your garden does not have enough water if the top 2 inches of soil are not damp.\***

## Step 5: Finish and put equipment away

Once you've checked to make sure the garden has been thoroughly watered, return the irrigation equipment to its storage place. That's it! Thank you for helping your school community grow a beautiful, thriving, edible garden!

**\*Please conserve water! If you are not actively watering the garden, shut off the faucet.\***