Tips for Conserving Water in Your Vegetable Garden
- By Meredith Seaver -
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Keep a good level of organic matter in your soil. This gives your plants the moisture they need while making it easier for air to move into the soil, bringing roots the oxygen they need.

Cover the soil with mulch to reduce evaporation. Black plastic can help conserve moisture and reduce weeds, but an organic mulch can do all that AND improve the soil without needing removal at the end of the season. A one-inch layer of compost or bark fines, a layer of newspaper, thin layers of grass clippings added week after week, and paper grocery bags are all options. Some of them might not be very pretty, but they will all do the trick.

Water deeply, but less frequently. Deeper, less frequent watering encourages deeper rooting. Your watering should be consistent though - no big swings from wet to very dry.

Use drip irrigation. One zone in a sprinkler system can be converted to drip for large gardens. For smaller gardens a simple drip system is easy to assemble and can connect to a garden hose once or twice a week watering. Even an inexpensive soaker hose can give a slow, deep watering. When you're setting up your drip irrigation every season, remember that emitters and soaker lines go UNDER mulch, so set up the drip first and add the mulch afterwards.

Use a controller or timer for your watering so that you don't leave a drip line or sprinkler running for hours because you got distracted and forgot you were watering.

Be consistent with weed control. Weeds use water too, and you want to keep that water in the soil for your vegetables.

(PHOTOS FOR ARTICLE SHOWN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES)
Drip irrigation emitters or lines should be placed UNDER mulch, not over.

Compost can be used as a mulch in gardens. A one-inch layer helps to conserve moisture, reduce weeds, and improve the quality of the soil. Compost doesn't need to be removed at the end of the season.
Black plastic or woven black weed mat can help conserve moisture and reduce weeds. Plastics like these eventually need to be removed and discarded.

Grass clippings can be a good mulch in the garden, but clippings should be added in thin layers, letting each thin layer dry before adding another. Grass clippings can be left in place or turned under at the end of the season.
The Homegrown Horticulture podcast focuses on helping plant-growers of all experiences in the Intermountain West. With our unique climate in mind, we offer tips on everything from backyard vegetable gardens, to fruit trees and orchards, to lawns, to landscape trees, and shrubbery.

Our information is based on the most updated research and is a production of Utah State University Extension.

Check out our pages on Facebook and Instagram!
Join us for a 12-session strength training group program! The classes include progressive resistance training, balance training, and flexibility exercises. Classes are two days a week for 6 weeks, and led by Utah County Extension faculty.

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 19, 2022-August 25, 2022
Time: 9am-10am OR 3pm-4pm
Location:
USU Extension
1426 E. 750 N., Suite 202, Orem, UT 84097
Pre-registration required by July 3, 2022
https://tinyurl.com/27ssmz2d
Contact: Gabriela Murza
(385) 268-6543
Gabriela.murza@usu.edu

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Utah County 4-H Summer '22

Utah County 4H Summer 2022

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Summit Highlights:
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  Reagan Wytsalucy, USU Extension
  Assistant Professor, San Juan County
• Special Presentations
  Larry Cesspooch, Ute Storyteller
  Katie Zaman, Sociologist and Illustrator
• Family-Friendly Prevention Dinner & Activities
• Social Powwow, Native Artisan & Craft Booths
• Rural & Tribal Recovery and Treatment Panel
• Health & Wellness Resource Expo
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• June 21* - Uintah Basin First Responders Workshop (By Invitation)

Register now!
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HELPING WOMEN BUILD CREDIT & INCREASE THEIR CREDIT SCORE

**JULY 7**
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**JULY 14**
HACKS TO HELP WOMEN MAXIMIZE INCOME & MINIMIZE EXPENSES

**JULY 21**
STRATEGIES TO HELP WOMEN SAVE FOR THEIR FUTURE SELVES

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Ready to own your path to financial wellness this year? Check off each small step monthly and see the drastic impact of improved personal finances over the course of the year. These short, actionable tips and related resources will have you in the driver's seat with your money.

Estate Planning And Why It's Important

An estate plan is a set of legal documents that protect you, your loved ones, and your assets. Estate planning goes beyond simply having a will. An estate plan will also cover issues like who receives guardianship and custody over your children or who makes medical decisions for you if you're unable to do so. The most important reason to have an estate plan is to make sure that what you want is clear and your requests are honored now and even after you pass away.

What is included in the toolkit

This 40-page toolkit is designed to help you begin the estate planning process. It is not intended to substitute for legal advice but it is intended to clarify some of the documents involved in estate planning so that you can determine what you would like to accomplish with your own estate plan. The toolkit includes documents and checklists to provide further assistance and protection for you and your assets.

What you can get out of the toolkit if you download it

You will be able to download the documents so that you can gather the information and securely store and organize the important documents needed for the efficient planning of your own estate plan.
Working toward a financial goal is sometimes daunting. This booklet will help you strategize how to make small (or big) adjustments in your spending, freeing funds to put toward your goals. Drastic changes in lifestyle for the long term can have high failure rates, but if strategically planned with your goal in mind, can help you accomplish your vision of financial empowerment.
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This class will certify you to rent the USU Extension freeze dryer so you can preserve the foods of your choice. Please contact Cindy at cindy.jenkins@usu.edu or 385-268-6538 if you have any questions. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freeze-dryer-class-tickets-356639637757 or with the QR code.
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