

SAVING WATER  
IN  
THE GARDEN

Climate change makes it increasingly important to organise the water that we use in our gardens and to make less work for ourselves.

..... a few tips for reducing the amount of water that we use in our gardens

## 1 Improve the quality of your soil

- add organic matter, garden compost or cheap bought compost called 'Terreau pour Sol'
- mulch flowerbeds, shrubs and roses with shreddings, rough garden compost, bark chippings or bought 'Paille de Chanvre' to avoid evaporation and to keep down weeds

- When to water
  - watering is best done in the evening so that it doesn't evaporate
- clay based soils will need less water, especially if you don't dig too deeply
- Choose the right plants
  - use plants in your garden that need less water such as grey-leaved plants including Lavender and Rosemary, also Euphorbias. Any of the Mediterranean plants need very little water once established

#### 4 How to water

- collect rainwater using a water butt with a downpipe from a gutter.
- you can use 'grey water' from a bath or shower or from your washing machine, but it mustn't contain disinfectant or bleach. Soaps and detergents are not harmful to plants.
- install an automatic watering system, this works particularly on the vegetable garden.
- use water retaining crystals in pots, window boxes and hanging baskets, 'Gel Reteneur d'Eau' from Fertiligéne
- water less frequently. Give your plants a really good soaking, they will not need watering again for about a week

