

# water smart garden



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## SECRETS TO A BEAUTIFUL & CAREFREE GARDEN

How to save water,  
time & money...  
and have a garden  
that's the envy  
of all your friends



# Secret 1

Lawns require mowing, watering, fertilizing, and in most cases, weed and pest control and—think about it, really and truly—they are not all that interesting to look at. Replace some of your lawn with flowering plants, shrubs, groundcovers and native plants that don't need all that time consuming work. Everyone will think it looks great too.

## Labour-saving lawn tips

If you choose to have a lawn, you can save time and money and still have a healthy lawn. Read on.

- **Use Fescue**  
With its fine blades, Fescue grass is drought tolerant and more resistant to disease due to its deep root systems.
- **Put the blade of your lawn mower at 7.5 cm (3 inches)**  
This allows the longer grass to shade the ground and stop evaporation, and helps shade out weeds.
- **Leave the cuttings on the lawn**  
This saves work, as the cuttings are full of nutrients that boost the soil's fertility by 30 per cent so you don't need as much or any fertilizer.
- **Water to the depth of 2.5 cm (1 inch) only once a week**  
This trains the roots to grow more deeply so the sun will not dry them out. (Put a small container on the lawn to measure the accumulated water.)

# Less Lawn, Less Work

# Secret

# 2

## Go for perennials

Choose perennials that need little or no watering. Pop them in the ground, water them at the start to get them established, and then sit back and watch them come up and flower year after year.

## And go native

Our native plants have adapted to our climate—and so they don't need watering or pesticides.

## Invite guests

There is a marvelous benefit to planting these type of flowers. They attract butterflies and birds to your garden. Just remember, you mustn't use pesticides. They will kill these small creatures!

# Plants that don't need watering or special care

MULCH

# Secret

# 3

## The real dirt

Compost enriches your soil and helps retain moisture for use in dry spells. Compost also feeds the plants so it saves on the use of fertilizers. (By the way, don't use peat. Many studies have shown that it does not share its moisture with plants but hogs it—and peat is taken from our precious wetlands.)

## The magic of mulch

Mulching doesn't sound glamorous but the results are amazing. Adding 5 cm (2 inches) of mulch to flower beds will reduce water loss due to evaporation, and can reduce your garden's need for water by up to 70 per cent. And if this were not astonishing enough, it also helps stop weeds from growing so that you don't need to weed so much or use costly herbicides. Save time, water and money. Mulch!

## It's down to earth

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## CleanWater Foundation

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The Clean Water Foundation is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to engaging individuals in actions that preserve, protect and improve our water.

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The Clean Water Foundation gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the federal, provincial and municipal governments.

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