



Hints for Maintaining Older Established Gardens

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Following these simple hints will help you to maintain a healthy and beautiful garden as well as saving money on your water bill:

Watering system

- Dig a hole to see how far down the water is penetrating.
- Check that the sprinklers are still providing enough water and are not blocked.
- Check the wetting patterns of the sprinklers and make sure the water is going where it is needed.

Timing

- Check water timer.
- Water less often for longer time, which helps water to soak in where it's needed.
- Water at night. There is less evaporation at night and better pressure

Maintenance

- Clean out old undergrowth.
- In older gardens you will find the trees are much bigger and most likely suffering from over crowding.
- Some selective removal may be required to provide more space.
- Root competition prevents water penetration.

Mulch

- Add a mulch layer, as leaf litter is not enough to prevent evaporation and to build up the organic matter.
- Avoid placing mulch near the trunk.
- Wet soil thoroughly before adding mulch.
- Don't apply mulch too thick as it can prevent water penetration.
- Well rotted organic matter should be incorporated into the soil before adding mulch.
- When adding fertiliser make sure it is well watered in.

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