

Water



We can't do without it, and nor can our plants! How can you make sure you have enough water for your allotment?

Here are some thoughts about water and your allotment:

People use much more water today than they did in the Second World War: we wash ourselves, our hair and our clothes much more often than they did. Why do you think this is? (clue: modern inventions in houses)

Water supply: is there a tap nearby? Could you have a water butt to collect rainwater from a shed roof? Add a water butt to your allotment plan.

To make sure the water does not evaporate as fast as you pour it on, only water in the evenings.

The water cycle: water evaporates from the earth's surface, and from the sea, rivers and lakes. Then it returns as rain. Draw a diagram or a picture to show the cycle.

Mulching also prevents evaporation: cover your earth with leaf mould, or shredded bark (it will reduce the weeds too!).

Watering cans are fine, but may take too much time. You could make small holes in your hose and lay it between the rows... Automatic watering!

Bank up the earth so that water does not get away, but soaks in where the plants need it.

Why not make a poster to encourage people to water carefully?

Further information

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fun Games about water use

www.waterinschools.com Thames Water schools website

www.bbc.co.uk/schools Animated water cycle

www.wateraid.org About worldwide issues surrounding water use