

How to be a Smart Gardener

Plants don't ask for much. To grow, all they need is the right proportions of four basic things – sunlight, water, air and nutrients. They are provided with three of these needs via the soil, making it the single most important factor in your garden.

A complete understanding of what soil type you're working with, as well as what's going on in the soil and what to put in it, is the foundation of smart, water-efficient gardening. Learning about soil is much easier while you're working with soil.

The principal concept behind water-efficient or "smart" gardening isn't difficult at all. It's simply a matter of including yourself in the processes of nature. The first step is to change your philosophy. You need to start looking at farming or gardening the soil, not the plants. Healthy plants are a bi-product of healthy soil.

Applying smart gardening principles to the way you garden will:

- reduce your water consumption;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- save you time and money;
- reduce your reliance on toxic chemicals and unnecessary fertilisers; and
- save your local waterways from pollutants in storm water.

Courtesy: Dry Gardening Australia
by Jonathan Garner
Murdoch Books

