

Getting watering right

Working out how much water to give a plant takes practice. Even expert gardeners can find it hard. It helps to look at gardening books and websites to find out how much water different plants need.

Plants can die if they don't have enough water or if they have too much. Let's look at some of the symptoms of underwatering and overwatering. If we can spot these we can change the way we water and save plant lives!

UNDERWATERING

When there is not enough water available to a plant, it cannot take up the water and nutrients needed for healthy growth. Water levels inside the plant drop and the plant dries out.

Symptoms of underwatering

- Brown leaf edges**
- Dry leaves and stems**
- Yellow curling leaves**
- Plant grows slowly**
- Leaves and flowers fall**
- No flowers or fruit**
- Leaves droop or wilt**

OVERWATERING

Plants need air in the soil as well as water. When there's too much water it floods the air spaces. The plant drowns because it can't breathe. Too much water can also make plant cells burst.

Symptoms of overwatering

- Leaves droop or wilt**
- Leaves turn brown or yellow**
- Blisters on leaves**
- Young leaves fall**
- Rotting roots**
- Dark, rotten bits on stems**