

# Community Gardens



From 1 June 2011

## Watering exemption for community gardens

Community garden managers may apply for an exemption from permanent watering rosters for sprinklers and from temporary sprinkler restrictions.

This exemption applies to users of scheme water supplied by the Water Corporation and to garden bores.

### Definition of a Community Garden

A community garden is defined as a garden that:

- is managed by a community group and/or a not-for-profit organisation;
- involves the participation of the wider community and/or a specific community (e.g. retirement village) in the day to day operation of the garden; and
- includes growing fruit, vegetables and herbs as primary activities.

A community garden does not include a productive garden at a school. These gardens may be hand watered daily but the normal sprinkler roster applies.

### Exemption rule

#### A. Community gardens in towns south of and including Kalbarri and Kalgoorlie

From September to May an irrigation system<sup>1</sup> can be used every day in these community gardens.

However, from 1 June to 31 August (during the permanent winter sprinkler ban) an irrigation system can only be used three days per week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in these gardens, if required to maintain healthy plant growth.

The amount of water applied must not exceed 10mm on any of these given days and should take into consideration seasonal plant water requirements and rainfall events to avoid unnecessary irrigation.

Sprinklers must only be run once on any of these given days in accordance with the permanent day time sprinkler ban (i.e. no sprinkler irrigation permitted between 9.00am and 6.00pm). Drip irrigation however, can be run twice on any of these given days in a split watering schedule (e.g. morning and midday), provided that the total daily application amount does not exceed 10mm.

#### B. Community gardens in towns north of and excluding Kalbarri and Kalgoorlie

An irrigation system can be used everyday in these community gardens throughout the year if required to maintain healthy plant growth.

The amount of water applied daily must not exceed 20mm and should take into consideration seasonal plant water requirements and rainfall events to avoid unnecessary irrigation.

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<sup>1</sup> There are two common types of irrigation systems:

1. Sprinklers; and
2. Drip irrigation, which is a more effective way to irrigate.

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Drip irrigation however, can be run twice a day in a split watering schedule (e.g. morning and midday), provided that the total daily application amount does not exceed 20mm.

## How to apply

The community garden manager must call the **Water Corporation** on **13 10 39** and request the exemption.

An exemption will be issued when the following information has been provided.

## Required information

When applying for an exemption you need to tell us:

- the address of the community garden;
- your name, telephone details and email address;
- the name of the person responsible for watering the community garden;
- if the community garden uses a bore or scheme water?;
- the Waterwise design features incorporated in the community garden<sup>2</sup>; and
- the date the exemption is requested to commence.

## Breaches

If the community garden is granted an exemption and found not to comply with the exemption conditions, an infringement notice can be issued. The penalty is a \$500 fine, which may be modified to a \$100 on the spot fine.

Regardless of who has established the community garden, the manager of the community garden is held responsible for any breach of the exemption rule.

## More Information

Refer to our **Creating a Waterwise Community Garden Best Practice Guidelines**

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<sup>2</sup> For assistance on these Waterwise design features please refer to the **Creating a Waterwise Community Garden Best Practice Guidelines**