

## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### **Growing water-wise**



Drought-tolerant kangaroo paw adds texture and interest to any garden.

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Keep an eye on your oak trees. They tend to topple over without any wind when they either have too much moisture or not enough.

As much as we love our vegetable gardens, this season only grow what you will eat or share with family and friends. Because of the lack of water, it is not prudent to overplant. Herbs are mostly drought-tolerant, especially rosemary.

To grow in water-wise knowledge, we need to embrace varied techniques for watering.

1. Water early in the day before the temperature warms.
2. Test your soil to determine its dryness. Only water when the soil is dry two to four inches down.
3. Even on the hottest days, don't be tempted to give your plants an extra drink.
4. Group plants with similar watering needs in one area.
5. Check irrigation systems for leaks.
6. Inspect drip systems to make sure the hoses are not strangling plants.



Feverfew grows from seed and has medicinal uses. Photos Cynthia Brian

7. Watering deeply twice a week will keep your plants alive.
8. Mulch, mulch, mulch with layers of at least three inches.
9. When adding to your garden in the summer, do so on a cool or cloudy day.
10. Include water-conserving measures indoors by taking shorter showers. Keep a bucket in your showers and sinks to use for containers or outside.

In the water restriction days during the extreme drought of the 1970s, the slogan was "If its brown flush it down. If it's yellow, let it mellow," as each flush wasted seven gallons. June 20- 26 is designated as pollinator week. Bees, butterflies, birds, bats, beetles, wasps, and moths as well as smaller mammals transport pollen to various species to make our gardens grow. Without our pollinators, we would have no food. Honor these hard-working garden helpers by making your garden pollinator friendly.

Take the plunge and grow water-wise this summer. Have a safe and healthy Independence Day!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.