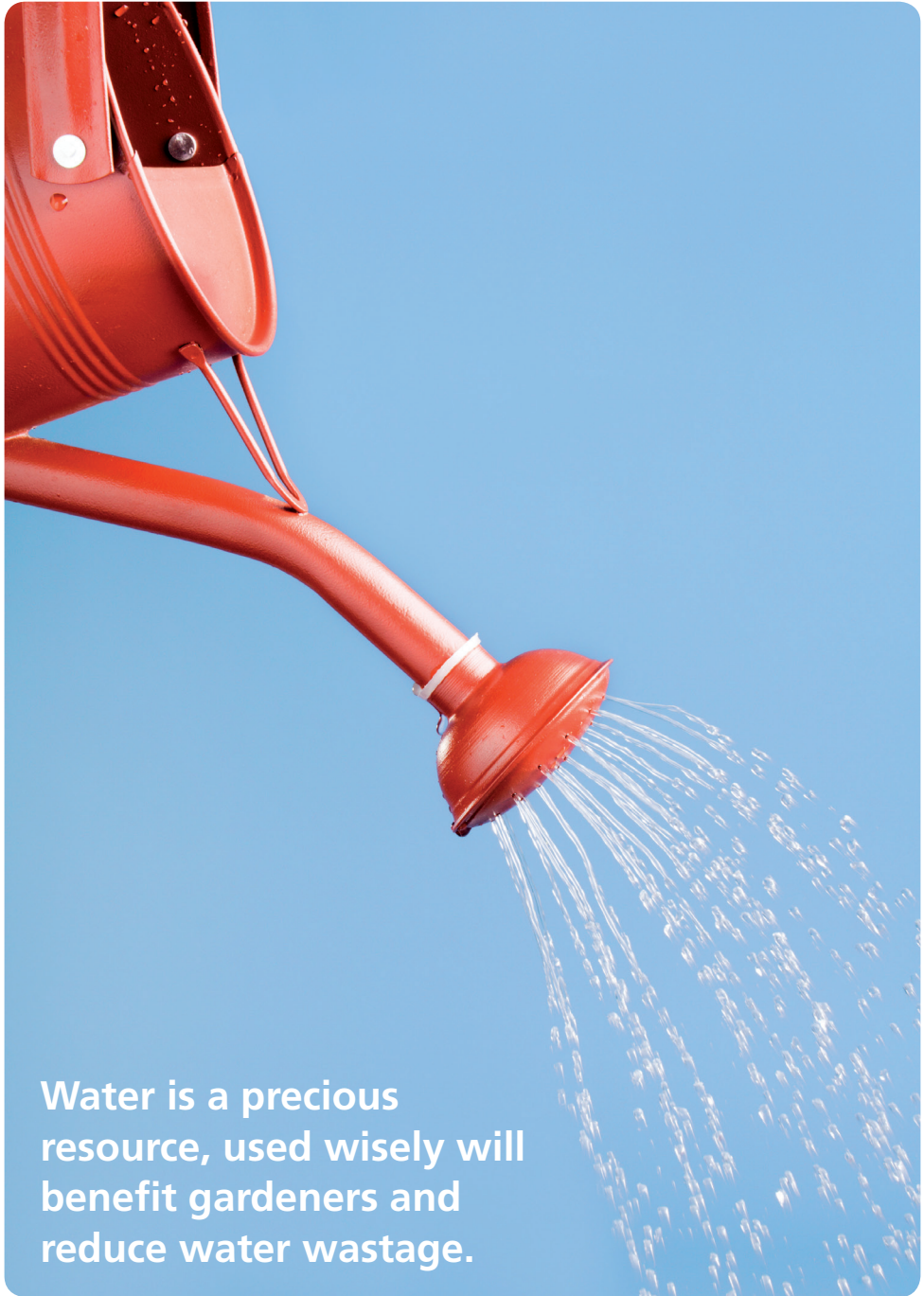




be
water
wise
in the garden

In partnership with





Water is a precious resource, used wisely will benefit gardeners and reduce water wastage.



Introduction

During the summer, we all enjoy seeing many people's imagination and hard work come to fruition, as homes, gardens, parks, schools, shops, streets and workplaces around Portsmouth come to life with plants and flowers of all kinds. It makes a real difference to city life.

Over 5,000 people take part in Portsmouth in Bloom, making it one of the biggest community events in the city.

Portsmouth in Bloom also plays an important role in strengthening and encouraging communities across the city.

May I express on behalf of the supporters of Portsmouth in Bloom, great appreciation and thanks to Colas and Portsmouth Water for their continued sponsorship of the event.

Please support Portsmouth in Bloom. For entry details and advice on sustainable gardening contact:

Paul Miles

Portsmouth in Bloom Coordinator

Telephone: **023 9284 1102**

Email: **paul.miles@portsmouthcc.gov.uk**



Portsmouth Water and Colas are sponsors of Portsmouth in Bloom.



Mulches

Well rotted compost, manure, bark chips, mushroom manure, leaf mould, grass cuttings, shredded prunings, are all good mulches.

Mulch 50mm deep, will conserve water in soil and inhibit moisture evaporation by up to 90%.

Mulches reduce leaching of minerals and nutrients from soil and hold rain water in soil for weeks rather than days.

Mulches promote strong healthy growth; plants are not stressed or checked by water loss.

Mulches suppress weed growth and encourage invertebrates, insects, which provide food for birds and other wildlife.

Plastic and polythene mulches are also useful.

Watering

Watering is best done in early morning and during evenings.

Watering when the sunlight is not strong reduces evaporation and avoids scorching plant leaves.

Rain water harvesting (using water butts) is very important.

Rain water is soft and is good to water rhododendrons and other acid plants growing in pots in alkaline areas like southern England.

Use a watering can where possible.

Carefully water the garden, avoid spraying patios, other hard surfaces and paths.

Don't water established trees, shrubs and lawns – they don't need it.

Containers

Plants in containers need watering every day. If possible put containers on a plant pot saucer and water into the saucer.

If a saucer is not used, the water will run through the container and run over the surrounding area

Containers do well plunged in borders, with mulching as well.

Plants in containers will thrive using this method.



Composting green waste

Compost can be produced in plastic or wooden types of composters or free standing compost heaps.

To accelerate decomposition add sulphate of ammonia (SAM) for every 150mm layer of green waste to be composted.

The naturally occurring bacteria which breakdown green waste need nitrogen to help in the breakdown of green waste.

Please wear gloves when handling SAM. Apply two handfuls per square metre of green waste.

Also keep composting material damp. Compost needs to be turned with a garden fork, approximately every eight weeks, to accelerate decomposition.

Compost should be well broken down within six months. Well composted material can be separated from green waste which needs more time to breakdown.

Green waste which requires more time to decompose can be put back into compost bins/heaps to continue the composting cycle.



Save water – save the environment

Sustainable gardening is very important and is a core value of Portsmouth in Bloom. Sustainable gardening and drought tolerant gardens assist with the challenge of encouraging everyone to use less water outdoors but we also need to take the challenge further and look to save water indoors.

That's why Portsmouth Water offers a number of **FREE** water saving devices to its customers. See opposite for how to order.

How do you measure up? Why not find out if you are waterwise in and around the home with their quick and easy online Interactive Water Calculator.



You are only a few clicks away from ordering your **FREE** water saving pack and learning new ways to save water by visiting their website at **www.portsmouthwater.co.uk** or call **023 9249 9666** for more information and start saving water today.

Free pack items



Twin tap inserts



Shower timer



Shower regulator



Save-a-flush bag



Message from Portsmouth in Bloom sponsors

It gives Colas and Portsmouth Water great pleasure as sponsors of Portsmouth in Bloom to support the wonderful floral displays produced by our communities, neighbourhoods, schools, gardening groups, organisations and individuals who put so much enthusiasm into Portsmouth in Bloom.

Colas and Portsmouth Water are very proud to be sponsors of Portsmouth in Bloom.



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