



7 Tips to Shield Your Garden This Summer

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When mercury-levels rise, we find a safe haven in cooler places. But what about the plants in your garden? They, too, have to bear the heat's brunt. Not taking proper care of your garden during harsh summers can wipe out plants in a day or two. So, before your area starts getting extremely warmer, here are a few handy tips to protect your plants.

Mulching

Mulch helps retain moisture and thwarts the growth of weeds. Besides enhancing the visual appeal of your garden, mulching also improves the [fertility of soil](#) [1]. Using deep mulch is highly beneficial if you are growing potatoes and root crops in your garden. Mulch is readily available in the market and you can go for anything such as weathered saw dust, straw, rough compost, and grass clippings.

Water

Worried about the water-restrictions in your area? Well, water the plants deeply and go for drip system reticulation, bentonite or attapulgitic clays and water retaining crystals. To cut down water loss, water your garden during early morning and use watering spikes at night. Watering your garden during sunset attracts mildew, fungus, mosquitoes and sand flies too. If there's a mildew attack on roses, cucumber, melon and zucchini, prepare a solution from 10 parts of water and one part of cow's milk and spray it weekly.

Avoid using herbicides

If temperatures are exceptionally high, never use herbicides to treat your lawn. They will do more harm than good. Hand-pick the weeds and use herbicides only when temperatures drop.

Shades

For tender plants, use [shades such as Mesh Tarps](#) [2]. Green colored tarps not only provide shade but also aid in sunlight penetration. Best quality tarps allow as much as 25% filtered sunlight and 75% shade.

Reduce the use of fertilizers

During summers, the rate of nutrient absorption in plants goes down. Therefore, avoid overuse of fertilizers. The best thing to do is dilute the fertilizer by 50% and then use it. Go for soluble fertilizers having added seaweed. Use potash for enhancing the quality of fruit trees and warding off fungal infections.

Transplanting

During summers, it's a bad idea to dig up plants and transplant them. It damages their hydrated roots and with this it's unlikely that your plant will survive. Wait until the temperature drops, if at all you want to move the plant.

Trace elements

Use supplementary magnesium in summer, particularly, for roses, cymbidium orchids and gardenias to boost their growth. Apply iron chelates to the leaves of camellia, banksia or greville to improve iron content. Apart from this, you can take a mixture of 4.5 liters of water and a heaped tablespoon of Epsom salt to spray on plants.

Check out the weather patterns in your area and be proactive in protecting your plants from heat waves. If you find that in coming years, the summers are going to be hotter and there's going to be less rainfall, considering replacing plants in your garden. Donate existing ones because no matter how hard you try to save them, some plants just cannot withstand high temperatures.

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