



## **Don't let wonderful wonder wilt your greens!**

The wonderful weather is great for outdoor fun for us humans, but can leave our edibles shrivelled and wilting.

Here are a few tips and weblinks for you to check out to keep your veg patch alive and healthy:

1. Don't water in the midday sun, early in the morning or at end of the day is best. It recommended to water at a consistent set time.
2. Do an SOS call out for your volunteers - set up a pop up party to rally your volunteers to the cause. Kids love filling up watering cans and all ages can be enticed with homemade lolly pops. Tod keeps an email list of Muck In Volunteers who can be called upon in times of need.
3. Add some cooling mulch to keep soil alive and fresh
4. Dig trenches to create water wells
5. Make moveable, temporary shades - you can get sunshade material from garden centres which is usually used to green houses and tie them to stakes or hoops.
6. Love this one but takes a bit more effort - [Instructables make a self watering table!](#)
7. Keep herbs pinched back so plant can feed the best bits. If really hot and its possible move them indoors
8. Don't fertilize during a heat wave, especially when a plant is dried out. Plants that are dehydrated will soak up fertilizer faster, which could cause fertilizer burn.
9. Keep on top of weeding - weeds will compete for the water your plants need
10. OK may be too late for this year but may be an idea to start thinking about plants or varieties that like the hotter weather. I've been checking out some websites from our antipodean friends who have lots of experice at this. Try the weblinks below

### **Tropical Permaculture: How to grow vegetables in Hot Weather**

<http://www.tropicalpermaculture.com/growing-vegetables.html>

### **E-How: How to Raise Vegetables in Extreme Heat**

[http://www.ehow.com/info\\_7995787\\_hotweather-vegetable-plants.html](http://www.ehow.com/info_7995787_hotweather-vegetable-plants.html)

### **Organic Gardening: How to protect heat stress**

<http://organicgardening.about.com/od/organicgardenmaintenance/a/How-To-Prevent-Heat-Stress-In-Your-Garden-Plants.htm>