

## HOW YOU OUGHTA WATER!

*By Todmorden's Growing Lead, Jenny Coleman*

Surprisingly, even Todmorden get hot, sunny days and the summer of 2013 tested the resilience of our community group.

Todmorden's Growing Lead, Jenny Coleman rallied the troops and gave us some advice of how you ought to water.

### Why water early:



We started early as it is important not to water when the sun is hot in the middle of the day. There are several reasons for this:

i) Watering when the sun is high is wasteful of water as much of it evaporates before the plants can get it.

ii) If drops of water are left on the leaves they can act like tiny magnifying glasses and concentrate the sun's rays, which then burn the leaves.

iii) The final reason concerns the people who are watering – when the sun is hot what you really should be doing is sitting in the shade with a cool drink, not carrying heavy watering cans about.

### Watering in the evening:

This evening, again when it is cooler and the sun is not so fierce, we will water the beds outside the college. This is another good time to water, however if you are plagued by slugs or snails watering in the evening can allow these pests an easy path to your plants in the dark so personally I prefer to water in the morning.

### What to focus on

We concentrated on the currant bushes and the apple trees at the health centre and the newly planted cabbages and lettuces at Pollination Street, and ensured that we gave a few things a really good soak rather than giving everything a sprinkle.

This is far better for the plants. Some things, like the mint and rosemary are well able to withstand some drought so this time they missed out. If the weather remains hot and dry we might even have to water them next time.



### A final thought

And most importantly don't neglect your willing water gathers. We heaped on the thanks and provided our wilting volunteers with a drinks at the local café ☺