

## Water Wicks – Spring Gardening Story

### Gardening Challenge: water conservation and saving time

Spring is the time to focus on your gardening strategy for the new growing season. This means that gardeners need to think of ways to reduce their consumption of water now, before the planting season gets underway.

Saving water is not only the environmentally responsible thing to do, it saves you time and allows you to enjoy more time away from the garden without having to worry about its' need for water.

Reduce your dependency on your garden hose this summer by conserving water.

- **DIVERT DOWNSPOUTS AND USE RAIN BARRELS**—Have rain barrels collect rain water as a source of soft water for gardens and containers. This is best for your garden and container grown plants. Start by installing a rain barrel under each downspout to collect this valuable resource. Set up rain barrels to take advantage of the free, oxygen charged, warm rain. ALL plants love it and respond better to it than the cold water from the end of a hose. I guarantee it.
- **DISCOVER THE MIRACLE OF MULCH** - To reduce the need for frequent weeding and watering, I recommend a 2 inch layer of finely *shredded pine or cedar mulch* throughout perennial and shrub beds. Mulching around plants reduces evaporation from the soil and therefore reduces the watering requirements of your garden dramatically. A 5cm (2 inch) layer of finely ground up cedar or pine bark mulch insulates the soil from the drying effects of the sun and wind. You will reduce your watering by up to 70% as a result and your weeding by up to 90% the first year.
- **WATER WISELY** – Water early in the morning when less moisture will be lost to evaporation. Only water your garden and lawn deeply (about 2 to 3 cm) **once**

a **week** to encourage deep root growth. Place a **Water Wick tea bag** at the root zone of each new plant to preserve moisture.

- Water Wicks' absorb up to **400 times** their weight in water. The all natural ingredients release 95% of that water back to the plant *when and where* it needs it most – **as the plant requires moisture at the root zone**. Mark's Choice Water Wicks also reduces necessary watering by up to 50%, and saves gardeners time and money. Mark's Choice Water Wicks packets are ideal for hanging baskets, window boxes, planters, annuals, perennials, shrubs, and roses. And thanks to its green **biodegradable design**, Water Wicks can be used indoors or out.

*Mark's Choice products are available exclusively at Home Hardware and Home Hardware Building Centres across Canada.*

**For more information, receive product samples, and set up interviews contact:**  
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Additional information is also available at the following websites:

[www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

[www.homehardware.ca](http://www.homehardware.ca)

[www.markcullen.com](http://www.markcullen.com)

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