



## Basic Vegetable Gardening Short Lesson Plan

### Lesson 8b: Watering

**Lesson Summary:** Boys and girls will learn how to water the garden.

**Boys and girls will learn:**

1. to measure rainfall and decide if plants need more water.
2. how to water a garden.

**Time:** 30 minutes

**What you need for the lesson:**

rain gauge  
watering cans or jerry cans

**Lesson Steps**

**1. (5 minutes) – Introduction**

Talk about the lessons at the last meeting.

**2. (5 minutes) – Talk about how to water the garden.**

Ask boys and girls what they know about watering the garden.

Ask them:

- Do we water each plant with the same amount of water?

*Answer:* No

Plants have different depths or lengths of roots. Some plants have roots that grow deep into the soil. Some plants have roots that grown near the top of the soil. Plants with roots along the top of the soil may need to be watered more often than plants with deeper roots.



This drawing shows how cabbages, tomatoes, and sweet potatoes have different root depths.

- Do some plants in the garden look like they are not getting enough water? Do other plants look like they are getting too much water?
- Talk about how your group can conserve (save) water.  
How can you collect water during heavy rains?  
Can you collect or save rain water to water the garden? How?

- What time of day is best to water the plants?  
*Answer:* It is best to water plants in the morning or in the night. If it is very hot during the middle of the day and you water plants, the water can get too hot for the plants. It can evaporate before filtering or soaking into the soil.

### 3. Talk about how to use a watering can.

Use a watering can or jerry can that pours water out slowly. It prevents seeds or seedlings from washing away. Pouring water too fast can wash seeds and seedlings away.

Always *water the base* of the plant, not the top or foliage.



### 4. Use a rain gauge to learn how to water a garden like a scientist.

#### 4.1 Explain how to use a rain gauge:

- Put a rain gauge on a stake with string or tape.
- Put the stake in the ground away from trees, buildings, or fences with open space above it. Put the gauge at eye level so it is easy to read.
- After rains stop each day, read the marks on the rain gauge that tell you how much it has rained. Write the amount of rain in your notebook. Be sure to empty the rain gauge every time you write down the amount of rain. If you do not empty the gauge, you will be measuring the same rain more than one time.
- Use what you learn from the rain gauge to help you water the garden.



#### 4.2 Talk about what a rain gauge can tell us about watering a garden.

Ask this question:

If we can see if it has rained, why do we need a rain gauge?

*Answer:* What we see by just looking may not be right. The soil may drain a lot and it may look like there was not enough rain. The soil may not drain well and it may look like there was more rain. If the garden is not flat or is on a hill, the water may run off but not be enough for the plants.

### 5. (5 minutes) - Review

- What did we do today?
- Why is it important to write down the amount of water the garden gets?  
*Answer:* It is important so you can decide if the garden needs more water.
- What are some other ways we could conserve water in the garden?  
*Answer:* If gardens are in the shade, less water evaporates or goes into the air.

### 6. (1 minute) - Close

Keep all notes in notebook.

