



The Monarch Journey

Growing Communities of Biodiversity

Monarch Awards Applicant Newsletter

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Journey Notes

With changing weather patterns, water management is becoming an important part of ecological gardening. In dry periods, careful watering can help plants stay resilient; in heavy rain, rain gardens can help slow and absorb excess water, protecting freshwater habitats and water supply. In this issue, we look at both sides – watering wisely during drought and making better use of rainfall in the garden.

Garden Visits begin July 13!

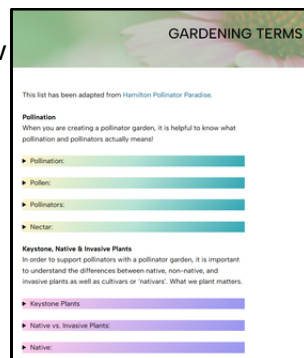
In the Garden

During an extreme heat event or periods of drought:

- Water early in the morning if possible.
- Water the soil, not the leaves.
- Check new plants and pots first.
- Water slowly and deeply so moisture reaches the roots.
- Use natural mulch or living plant mulch to help keep moisture in the soil & roots cool.
- **Don't forget to water mature trees!**

Resource to Explore

Ecological gardening comes with a few terms that may be new or used in different ways. This [Gardening Terms](#) resource offers simple definitions to help make the language of ecological gardening easier to understand.



Eco-Gardening Tips

HELPFUL TIPS

Water Management:

An ecological garden works with the conditions already there. Some areas are dry and sunny. Others may be shady, damp, or slow to drain. Choosing plants that match the light and soil moisture helps them grow stronger with less watering and less stress. Take a look at your garden and ask: Where does water collect after rain? Where does the soil dry out quickly? Are any plants struggling because the spot is too wet, too dry, too sunny, or too shady?

Try this: After a rainfall, notice where water soaks in, runs off, or pools.

One Small Action: Protect bare soil with plants, leaves, or natural mulch. You might also consider a rain barrel, redirecting downspouts toward planted areas, or adding a rain garden. Review [Green Venture - Rain Ready for more info.](#)

Check Out this Resource: [A Complete Guide to Building & Maintaining a Rain Garden](#)



A mature shaded rain garden - Dundas, ON