How to Water a Raised Bed Garden

1 Raised beds dry out faster.

Raised beds drain freely, which is good for roots but means they dry out faster than the ground.



2 Use the finger test.

Push a finger two inches into the soil, and water if it feels dry.



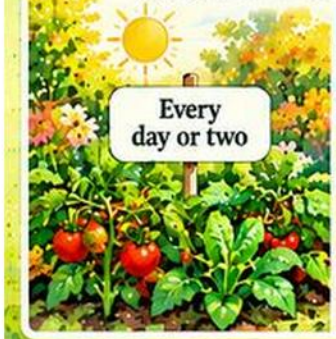
3 Water slowly and deeply.

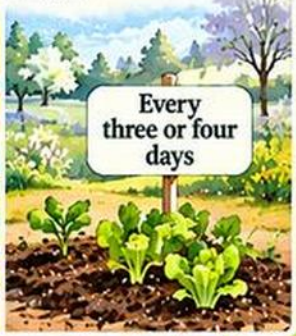
Water at the base of the plants, in the morning if you can, so the leaves dry before evening.



4 How often?

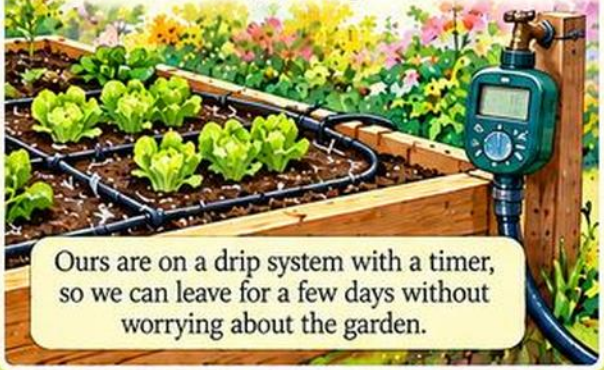
In summer heat that may be every day or two; in cool spring weather, every three or four days.





5 Use a drip line or soaker hose.

A drip line or soaker hose on a timer is the best money you'll spend on a raised bed.



Ours are on a drip system with a timer, so we can leave for a few days without worrying about the garden.

6 Use mulch.

Once plants are up, two to three inches of straw, shredded leaves, or wood chips between them cuts water loss by as much as half and smothers weed seeds.



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