

Watering Plants in the Garden Center



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Watering Plants in the Garden Center

Introduction Now that you know how to verify inventory, you are ready to water plants in the Garden Center.

Importance The purpose of this lesson is to help you maintain a live, healthy plant inventory for our customers. This is based on providing the correct amount of water to plants by following 6 simple steps.

Every Spring, customers shop our company for a wide variety of healthy plants that they will use to beautify their yards. Your department will assist more customers during the upcoming few months than any other time of year.

Lesson Overview This lesson will cover the proper procedure to watering plants in the Garden Center.

Lesson Objectives In this lesson, you will learn:

- How to identify which plants need to be watered
- Demonstrate proper watering techniques

Order of Topics

Topic	See Page
Life Cycle of a Plant	3
What is an Over Watered Plant?	4
What is an Under Watered Plant?	7
How to Water Plants in the Garden Center	10
Lesson Summary	13

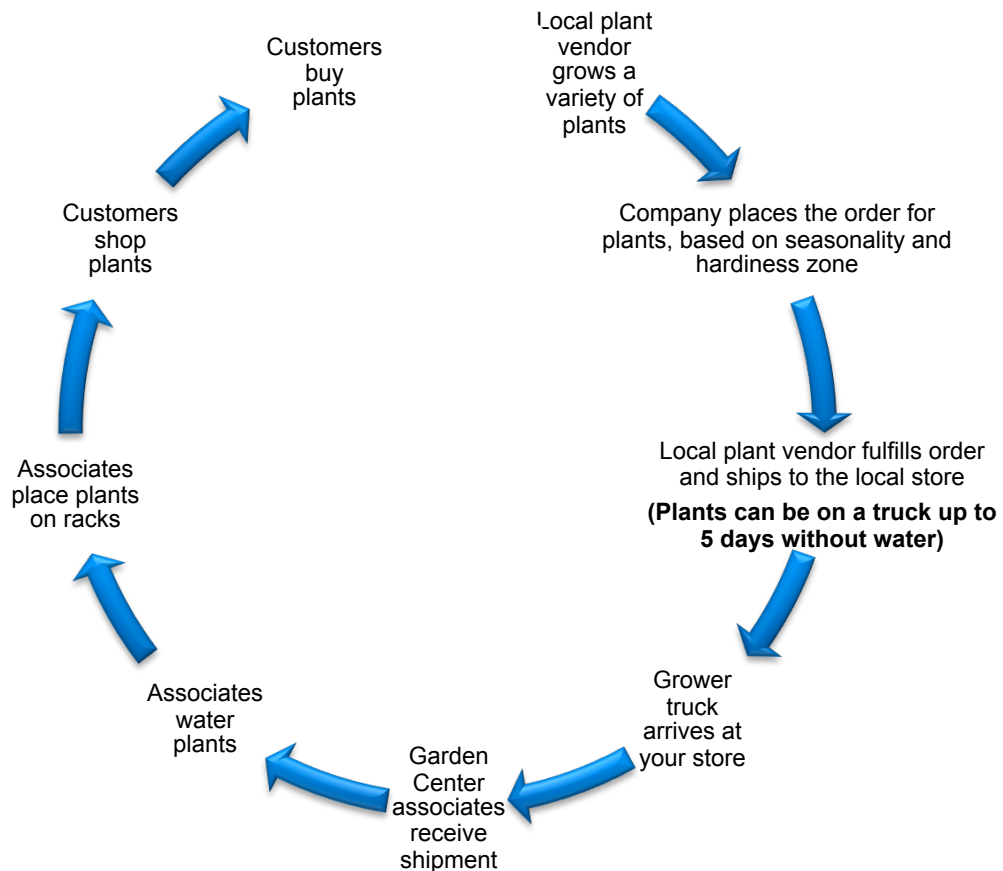
Life Cycle of a Plant

Introduction

This department is the only department within our company that contains live goods. Before getting into the detailed steps of watering, it is important to review the life cycle of the live goods when they arrive at your store.

Process

The following diagram illustrates how plant growers provide our stores with the live goods that are sold in the store and that inventory maintenance.



Note

Plants can be on a truck up to **five days** before arriving at your store. Be sure to water the plants immediately after receiving each shipment.

What is an Over Watered Plant?

Introduction

Before you can water the plants in the Garden Center, you must identify which plants need to be watered. Over watered plants should not be watered.

Importance

Water is great for your plants but too much can kill them. Early indications of overwatering will prevent you from continual over watering and revive the plant.

Plants that are over watered on a continual basis will eventually be classified as “**distressed**”, resulting in selling the plant at a significantly reduced price from the original price. Distressed plants result in a loss for the company on every plant classified as this way.

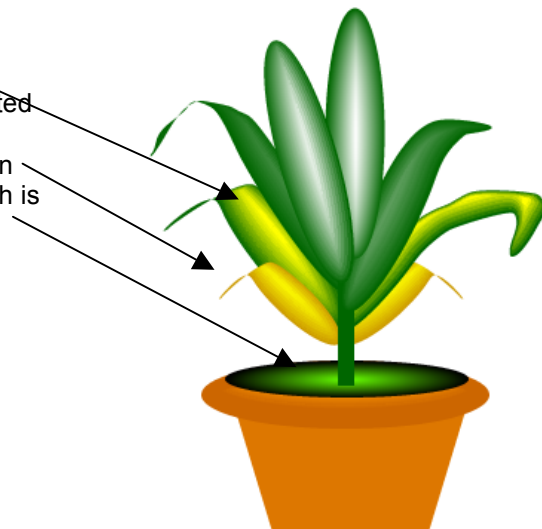
Definition

When a plant is **over watered**, the soil becomes too moist for the roots to breathe and receive proper nutrients from the soil. With continuous over watering, a plant's roots will eventually rot. Over watering also leads to fungal diseases and mold¹.

Over Watered Plant Indicators

Below are indications that a plant might be over watered:

- Plant looks wilted
- Lower leaves are yellow
- Roots will be rotting or stunted
- No new growth
- Young leaves will turn brown
- Soil will appear green (which is algae)



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¹ Walsh, Susan. [Over Watering: How to Prevent it and Save Your Plants](http://houseplants.suite101.com/article.cfm/overwatering#ixzz0gaJs62a2)
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What is an Over Watered Plant?, Continued

Example

Here are two examples of over watered plants.

- No new growth
- Plant is wilted



Plant A (over watered)

- Plant looks wilted
- Lower leaves are yellow



Plant B (over watered)

Non-Example

Here are examples of the same plants as above, but healthy.



Plant A (healthy)



Plant B (healthy)

Continued on next page

What is an Over Watered Plant?, Continued

Practice

Given the pictures below, *circle which plants are over watered.*



What is an Under Watered Plant?

Introduction Before you can water the plants in the Garden Center, you must identify which plants need to be watered. Under watered plants must be watered.

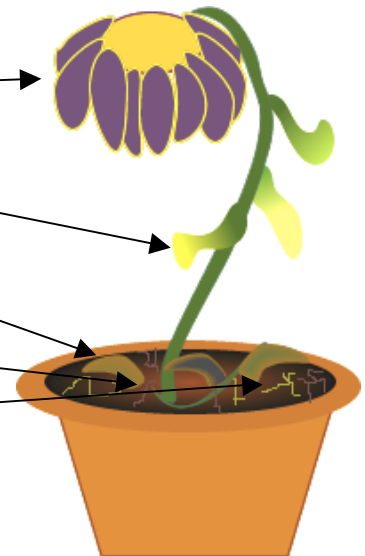
Importance When plants are identified early as needing water, it is easier to keep the plant alive than plants that are deprived of water for several days.

Plants that are under watered on a continual basis will eventually be classified as “**distressed**”, resulting in selling the plant at a significantly reduced price from the original price. Distressed plants result in a loss for the company on *every* plant classified as this way.

Definition An **under watered** plant does not receive enough water to allow soil nutrients to flow to the plant’s roots. The soil nutrients help plants to produce new foliage and blooms. Continual under watering will lead to dry soil and a plant dying due to lack of nutrients.

Under watered Plant Indicators Below are indications that a plant might be under watered:

- Wilting foliage
- Yellow leaves
- Dropping leaves
- Brown, dead leaves at the bottom of the plant
- Cracked soil (light brown lines)
- Some roots visible at the surface (light yellow lines)
- Stems are brittle and break easily²



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² Mierzejewski, K. (n.d.). *How Can You Tell Plants Have Too Little Water*. Retrieved November 6, 2009, from Gardening Know How: <http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/problems/under-watering.htm>

What is an Under Watered Plant?, Continued

Example

Here are two examples of under watered plants in a Garden Center.

- Wilted leaves
- Dropping leaves



Plant A

- Yellow leaves
- Stems that are brittle and break easily
- Brown leaves at the bottom of the plant



Plant B

Non-example

Here is are healthy examples of the under watered plants above.



Plant A



Plant B

Analogy

Just like you, plants need water to survive.

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What is an Under Watered Plant?, Continued

Practice

Given the pictures below, *circle which plants are under watered.*


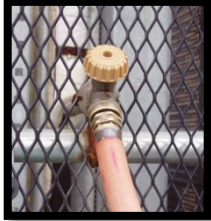




How to Water Plants in the Garden Center

Introduction Now that you know how to verify inventory, you are ready to maintain the inventory by watering plants in the Garden Center.

When to use Use this procedure daily, between the hours of 6 am and 10 am.




Procedure This table describes how to water plants according to company standards.

Step	Action	
1	Place yellow safety cones at the end of each aisle.	
2	Turn water on by rotating faucet clockwise, to the right.	
3	Lay out the watering hose and wand to the aisle needing watering between cone and the end of the aisle.	
4	Identify which plants need watering.	

Continued on next page

How to Water Plants in the Garden Center, Continued

Procedure (continued)

Step	Action																										
5	Use this table to properly water previously identified healthy and under watered plants.	 <p>Plants on racks/shelves</p>  <p>Hanging baskets</p>																									
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3	Confirm the soil is moist.																										
6	Once watering is complete for all plants, wrap hose around the hose reel and return equipment to storage location.																										

Note

If you are approached by a customer while watering, place flag in the next plant that needs watering and help the customer.



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How to Water Plants in the Garden Center, Continued

Demonstration Your Department Manager will now demonstrate how to follow the steps correctly.

Practice Use the watering equipment and this procedure table to water all plants in the Garden Center.

Lesson Summary

Review

In this lesson, you learned:

- How to identify which plants need to be watered
 - Demonstrate proper watering techniques
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