

Course Description

Watering is one of the most important—and most misunderstood—aspects of plant care. In this course, you'll learn how to make informed decisions about when, how much, and how often to water plants in different conditions. You'll explore the factors that influence water needs, such as soil type, weather, plant species, and site conditions. You'll also learn how to recognize the signs of overwatering and underwatering, and how to adjust your approach as conditions change throughout the season. This course will help you develop practical judgment and consistency in watering, whether you're hand watering individual plants, maintaining larger areas, or supporting others in applying good watering practices across your garden.

Learning Objectives

After taking this course, you will be able to:

1. Explain the factors that influence watering needs, including the differences between containerized and in-ground plantings, soil/media types, plant life stage, and climate.
2. Assess soil moisture and plant condition using tools (probes, meters, rain gauges) and tactile methods (finger test; deeper testing holes with knife) to distinguish between overwatering and underwatering.
3. Demonstrate correct watering techniques for hand watering, hoses, and irrigation systems, prioritizing soil saturation over foliage wetting and minimizing runoff/waste.
4. Recognize signs of water stress (wilting, chlorosis, necrosis) and understand how factors like pot material and mulch influence these conditions.
5. Adjust watering based on seasonal shifts, local climate patterns (e.g., humidity, dormancy), and plant establishment stages.
6. Explain how proper watering impacts plant health, resource conservation, and team communication/scheduling, best practices when watering for public safety.
7. Understand the physical properties of soil and media, including water-holding capacity, pore space, and the impact of fertilizer salt buildup.