



# Growing Together in a Dry Year

Durango School District and the City are working together to demonstrate sustainable, waterwise food production during the 2026 drought

Water-wise regulations are in effect for all community gardeners. For information about city-wide restrictions, scan the QR code.



## DID YOU KNOW?

- A 3-inch layer of mulch (like the leaves and cardboard seen here) acts like a blanket, keeping soil 10–15 degrees cooler and reducing evaporation by up to 50%.
- By June 16th, this garden switches entirely to "under-the-mulch" drip lines that deliver water directly to plant roots at night.
- We only water before 9 AM or after 7 PM. This ensures the water feeds the plants, not the clouds.
- The “tents” you see aren't just for shade; they lower the plant's "sweat rate" (transpiration), meaning the plant needs significantly less water to survive the Durango afternoon heat

## Your Yard Can Be Waterwise, Too!

- Mulch your perennials: Use wood chips or grass clippings to hold moisture.
- Water deep, not often: Encourage roots to grow down, where it's cooler.
- Check the soil first: Use a "finger test" or a moisture meter before turning on the hose.

***Sustainable Food. Shared Resources. Stronger Community.***