

Watering

Welcome to the loving care and thriving of our dear ecosystem at Serene Light Gardens!

The Watering is a really **important** task in the farm and it is a big **responsibility**.

The **main points** to take care of are:

1. **Not to forget** to turn on and then off the taps and especially the main tap.
2. To **not overwater** or **water not enough**.
3. Make sure the sprinklers and little fountains **are working**.
4. Know where the **manual watering area** is and avoid excess water in the plates of the pots.

1. There is a **main water tap** behind the compost bucket at the **entrance** of the kitchen. When we are not watering, this tap **should be closed**. There is a rope with a stone that we extend and put in front of the kitchen **while the main tap is open** to help us to remember that the main tap is open and need **to be closed when watering is finished**. Just before closing it, it is **important** to let it **a little open** to hear and feel if there is still some water flowing to the tap, indicating us that **still something is open or it may be a leak somewhere**.

We have **several sets** of little taps that have a code color and a number.

Red means daily or every second day watering. **Yellow** every 4-5 days. **Green** every 5-6 days and **Blue** every 7days. We stretch or shorten the cycles depending on the rain or winter dew or the sun and hit. We open the **same color and same number** taps at the same time. The number of the taps of the same color and number vary from 1 to 4. The number of taps per set is indicated on the watering grid. The watering grid with the dates and the sets, is there to **indicate us** when what has been watered. A point indicates the approximate day a set should be watered and a cross when it has been watered.

There is also a satellite map of the farm with the **approximate** location of those taps, although some may be hidden by the wilderness and you may need to be shown for the first time.

Always put an **alarm** on your phone or other device when you open a set to not forget to close the taps when the watering time is finished (between 45min to one hour depending on the season).

2. As the soil has a high clay content, too much watering can result in roots rotting. Also, not enough water is also not good. Even though we indicate an approximate schedule per color code, the **best** way is always to check how dry or wet is the soil where the dripping, fountain and/or sprinkler are releasing the water. **This method is much more reliable than the number of days**.

If we have **heavy rain** and **strong wind** the water content of the soil is affected and we need to water according to the need of the garden by checking the humidity of the soil.

3. **Every month** it is important to **review** the little water fountains (green and red colors) that are used in the set of taps: 2Y, 4Y, 1G, 2G, 3G, 3B and readjust them by rotating the little fountain **emitter**. If the water flow is totally blocked, a needle, palm spike or little wriggle should be used to clean the inside of the fountain head and/or the hole connecting the fountain to the pipe.

4. As well as the dripping lines, we have the manual watering that we perform with a **hose** that has to be connected to several big taps connected to the main water pipe. The location of these taps and those areas need to be shown practically (we call it the “red zone”), and they include the nursery and **seedlings** areas as well as different areas with vegetables and plants in which we don't have dripping lines. Michael, Yasmín or another volunteer who knows well those areas will show you at least once if you chose this task.