

JUNE

Week 1



LESSON PLAN #4

Welcome to the fourth lesson of the Junior Garden Club! This month we will learn about watering the garden.

Review

In the last lesson plan we learned about the last frost, how to plan your garden around it, and how to harden off and transplant seedlings.

Have you tried taking your seedlings outside yet? This process is called hardening off and prepares the seedlings for the harsher conditions of the garden outside. Once your seedlings are strong enough to go on their own in the garden, it is time to transplant them. Make sure to transplant the seedlings into a sunny area.

To learn more about how to plant, harden off, and transplant seedlings, download the first three lesson plans from our website: <https://www.agricultureforlife.ca/juniorgardenclub>.



This program is supported by:



Watering the Garden: How do you know when to water?

How do you know when to water your plants? How much water is too much? Too little? These are all important questions to consider when watering your plants.

A seed needs five things to grow: Sun, air, water, nutrients, and soil.

Plants get water, nutrients, and oxygen mainly through the roots. The roots take up water, but they also need air to breathe. The soil needs space for oxygen to exist which is why it is important to have a mixture of organic material and nutrients to allow space for oxygen. We will be learning more about the importance of soil in next week's lesson.

If plants don't have enough water they will wilt, turn dry, and die. If plants are overwatered the leaves will turn soft, and they will drown.

Watering the right amount will allow the plants to stay upright, move nutrients from the soil to the stem, and engage in photosynthesis to create energy and food.



Investigate if your plant needs water!

For a thorough investigation, carefully push your fingertip into the soil near your plant and pull it back. If it feels moist, check back in a day. If it feels dry, then it probably needs a drink of water.

When is the best time to water?

Try to water your plants in the morning. This is especially important in the high temperatures of the summer.

How should plants be watered?

Make sure to water at the base of the plant instead of on the leaves. Watering the leaves can give the plant diseases.

There are different ways to water a garden. You can water by hand, with a garden hose, or even with a sprinkler. For more details on watering your garden, take a look at our How to Water the Edible Garden manual: https://issuu.com/info-agricultureforlife/docs/how_to_water_edible_garden/1?ff.

This program is supported by:



DIY Milk Jug Watering Can:

Do you have a few empty milk jugs lying around? This activity will upcycle your milk jug and turn it into a watering can!

Supplies:

- Empty plastic milk jug (1 L or 2 L)
- Sewing needle OR a pen, for poking
- Multi-colour sharpies for decorating
- Craft materials for decorating: hot glue gun, googly eyes, etc.

Instructions:

1. Ensure the milk jug is fully rinsed and clean, that the label is taken off, and it has a lid.
2. With the needle or pen, poke 20–25 small holes in the milk jug lid. Be careful not to poke yourself! Screw the lid back on when you are done.
3. Poke a small air hole in the handle to help the water run smoothly
4. Test that there are enough holes in the lid by pouring some water. Does the water come out of the holes in nice streams? If not, widen or add holes as needed.
5. Decorate the milk jug to your liking! You can add eyes or give it some colour.
6. Water your plants!

Contest: Check Your Seedlings

Do your seedlings look different from when you first planted them? You may start to see a small stem and leaves starting to grow. Make sure to track your plant growth in the Plant Growth Chart on the next page. Keep an eye out for our gardening contest coming soon!



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Activity: Plant Growth Chart

Have you noticed any changes in your plants? Keeping track of your plants in a plant growth chart will help you to notice any changes. This can also help you to remember when to water them. Use this chart once a week to track the growth of your plants!

Date:	How tall are your plants? Do you need to water them?	Draw your plant!
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To download the first three lesson plans and to register for future lessons, make sure to sign up for the Junior Garden Club on our website: <https://www.agricultureforlife.ca/juniorgardenclub>.

Next week, you will learn about the importance of soil.



References:

Gardening Know How—Signs of Under Watering Plants: How Can You Tell Plants Have too Little Water, 2021 <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/environmental/under-watering.htm>

BrightView—4 Signs you are Overwatering your Plants, 2017
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