

QUIZ: How water-wise are you?

My garden is zoned into 3 water-use zones: high, medium and low.

3 = Yes
2 = No zones but my plants are grouped according to water
0 = No
= My score

Part of my garden has been planted with local species, requiring no watering or irrigation.

3 = > 50%
2 = >25%
1 = >10%
0 = Not so
= My score

I have reduced my lawn to what my family uses daily.

3 = Yes
0 = No
= My score

I use grey water in the garden.

3 = All my grey water
2 = Some
0 = None
= My score

I store rainwater in tanks or small barrels.

3 = >5000 liters
2 = 1000-5000 l
1 = Some
0 = None
= My score

I use permeable paving to allow rainwater to infiltrate.

3 = Yes
0 = No
= My score

I plant ONLY at the start of the rainy season.

3 = Always
2 = Mostly
1 = Sometimes
0 = Never
= My score

I choose small, compact plants at the nursery, and avoid large ones.

3 = Always
2 = Mostly
1 = Sometimes
0 = Never
= My score

QUIZ: How water-wise are you?

I mulch my garden EVERY year.

3 = Always
2 = Sometimes
0 = Never
= My score

My pond is very shaded or has a removable cover.

3 = Yes
0 = No
= My score

I make watering basins around trees and shrubs.

3 = Always
2 = Sometimes
1 = Occasionally
0 = Never
= My score

I have made swales to reduce water runoff and direct it to planted areas.

3 = Yes
2 = No
= My score

I water deeply and infrequently.

3 = < Once a month – never
2 = Once a fortnight
1 = Weekly
0 = More often
= My score

I recycle all my garden and kitchen waste and make compost or use it as mulch among plants.

3 = Yes
2 = Some of it
1 = None
= My score

Our scores:

Marijke – a Cape garden: My score is 18 out of a possible 36; definitely room for improvement!

Anno – a mistbelt, KZN garden: My score is 23 out of a possible 36; I clearly need to improve my water-wise garden practices.

What's yours?