

## **Climate Change Group update – water, what we can do**

Norfolk experienced severe "climate whiplash" in early 2026, transitioning from a record-breaking wet winter to an exceptionally dry spring. Following relentless storms early in the year, rainfall plummeted to just 38% of the long-term April average across England, making it one of Norfolk's driest Aprils on record. (EDP)

With summer fast approaching, now is a good time to think about how we can keep our water usage to a minimum.

### **Use less water in the house**

- Fix leaks
- Showering, at start collect colder water in a bucket, then take a "navy shower", water on get wet, water off when soaping up then on again to rinse off. Use the bucket water on the garden or to flush the loo
- Cleaning teeth and washing hands, only have the tap on when actually needed
- Only boil as much water as you need
- Collect excess water from the kettle or cooking pots
- Wait until you have a full load before using a dishwasher or washing machine

### **In the garden**

- Install as many water butts as possible
- Use a watering can instead of a hose

### **Grow plants that require less water**

- As a guide, plants with silver leaves are more drought tolerant (and are less likely to be eaten by muntjac): lavender, sedums (ice plant), salvias, stachys (lamb's ears), nepeta (cat mint).
- Other plants include achillea, verbena, geraniums (not pelargoniums), euphorbias, heleniums and helianthemums. These are all perennials and will pop up each year, spreading and seeding themselves happily.
- Herbs such as rosemary, thyme and sage are mediterranean plants.
- Succulents house leeks (sempervivens) make a good show in pots or as a green roof.
- These plants do not require rich soil, but when planting soak the pots first in a bucket of water and water the hole that you have dug. Water them in, preferably with rainwater rather than mains water, from a watering can. Always direct the water at the base of the plant, not over the leaves. Water again to get them established, but soon they will require little regular watering.
- Garden Organic [www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk) and the RHS [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk) have long lists of suitable plants on their websites.

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