



Chandler • Arizona



WaterSaver Newsletter

March 2012

Lawn Stars

A sprinkler system can be a convenient and valuable tool when irrigating your lawn areas. However, if used improperly, it results in substantial amounts of water waste. One of the easiest and smartest things you can do is to replace old-fashioned sprinkler spray nozzles with new water efficient ones. Don't worry, if you can unscrew the cap on a bottle of water and then put it back on, you can replace a spray head. In just a few minutes you can give your irrigation system a tune up, conserve water, reduce puddling and water running into the street and improve the health of your lawn just in time for summer.

Click on the 'stars' below to learn more about your sprinkler system and how you can design, operate and maintain it up to 42% more efficiently.

- [Multi-stream spray heads](#)
- [MP Rotators](#)
- [Oscillating spray heads](#)
- [Auto-stop for broken sprinkler heads](#)

You might also be interested in the following:

- [How to change a sprinkler spray nozzle.](#)
- [Sprinkler types and the differences between them.](#)
- [Become familiar with your automatic timer and how to take advantage of its features.](#)
- [Determine the application rate and uniformity of your sprinkler system and how this knowledge is critical to helping you water efficiently.](#)

Still have questions about your sprinkler system? Help is available in the form of free irrigation classes. Don't miss [Sprinkler Design and Installation](#) on April 19. Equally good are Maximize Your Irrigation on April 12, Yard Watering & Timer Programming on April 26 and Smart Irrigation Controllers on May 3.

Complete details are available on the Water Conservation website at www.chandleraz.gov/water.



Monthly Watering Advice

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Upcoming Events

March 3 -

[Chandler Smart Landscaping II](#)

March 6 -

[Pruning & Maintaining Your Landscape](#)

March 13 -

[Basic Yard Makeovers](#)

March 17 & 18

[Desert Botanical Garden Plant Sale](#)

March 24 & 31 -

[Chandler Smart Landscaping](#)

March 31 -

[Real Gardens for Real People Tour](#)

April 3 -

[Plant Care in the Desert](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water

Ask A Garden Goddess



My yard is overrun with aphids. How do I control them?

Aphids are small, soft-bodied insects that thrive in cold weather.

March

We had some wild weather in February, with temperatures both below and above normal and no measurable rain. Warm days are nudging Bermuda and other cold sensitive plants out of dormancy. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about two years).

Lawn watering:

- Dormant summer grass (Bermuda) - Once every 12 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - Once every 6 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert adapted - Once every 25 days
- High water use - Once every 12 days

Tree watering:

- Desert adapted - Once every 30 days
- High water use - Once every 14 days

Shrub watering:

- Desert adapted - Once every 21 days
- High water use - Once every 10 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert adapted - Once every 21 days
- High water use - Once every 10 days

Cacti and succulent watering - No water needed

Annuals watering - Once every 5 days

Native wildflowers - Once every 10 days

Reduce your landscape watering 30 to 50 percent by adjusting your irrigation each season. "[Landscape Watering by the Numbers: A Guide for the Arizona Desert](#)" will help you determine how much water to apply and how long to run your system. request a free copy at www.chandleraz.gov/water or visit the interactive Web site at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>

Bonus tip: Need an irrigation system tune up? Learn how at our free Water Smart irrigation workshops in April. For more information call 480-782-3580 or visit www.chandleraz.gov/water.

Only 1/16 of an inch long, they come in a variety of colors including green, yellow, and black. They use their piercing, sucking mouthparts to sip fluid from tender leaves and shoots leaving behind a sticky residue known as 'honeydew' (aka aphid poop) which is relished by ants.

Resist using pesticides and soon you'll have beneficial insects like ladybeetles, lacewings, tiny parasitic wasps and more feasting in your yard. If you need to dislodge them, use a strong blast of water from your hose. Diluted soapy water can also be used but it kills beneficial insects so use caution.

Email your question to
GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said, "Challenge is a dragon with a gift in its mouth.Tame the dragon and the gift is yours."

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny has proclaimed March 12 - 18 as Fix A Leak Week in Chandler and challenges all citizens to

find and repair leaks and to use water efficiently.

Fix A Leak Week is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ongoing We're for Water campaign. This year's Fix A Leak Week encourages Americans to help put a stop to the more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted from household leaks each year.

In your home water leaks can add up to 10,000 gallons of water wasted annually. That's enough to fill a backyard swimming pool! The most common types of leaks found in the home include leaking toilet flappers, dripping faucets, shower heads and other leaking valves.

Fixing leaks is easy, low cost and can save as much as ten percent or more on your water bill and preserve water for the future.

For more information on Fix A Leak Week events, including the kick off Festival on March 10, visit <http://www.fixaleakweekaz.com>

Plant of the Month

[Mexican Honeysuckle](#) (*Justicia spicigera*)

With long, colorful, tubular flowers, *justicias* are a hummingbird's delight. Flower colors range from yellow to deep red. *Justicias*' green foliage contrasts well with gray desert-adapted plants. Native to tropical and sub-tropical regions, they can be used in many types of landscapes. These evergreen shrubs bloom throughout the year, inviting hummingbirds into the urban wildlife garden.



If plants are damaged by frost, become leggy, or have reduced flower production, they may be rejuvenated by pruning to the ground after the last frost in early spring. They recover rapidly in warm weather and flourish with infrequent, deep watering. Try [Chuparosa](#) (*Justicia californica*), [Shrimp Plant](#) (*Justicia brandegeana*) or [Mexican Plume](#) (*Justicia fulvicoma*).



For more landscape choices and design ideas to help you create a vibrant, attractive, colorful low water use landscape try the on-line edition of "[Water Wise Landscaping in Chandler](#)".

Water Conservation E-News

This monthly newsletter will help you create stunning landscapes that use less water. Each issue is packed with personalized watering advice, notices about upcoming events, timely tips to maintain a healthy landscape, plus ways to reduce your water bill. Read past issues here - [WaterSaver newsletter](#).

[Sign-Up Now](#)

Sincerely,
Water Conservation Staff

Chandler City Council

Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor
Jeff Weninger, Vice Mayor

Council Members

Trinity Donovan
Kevin Hartke
Rick Heumann
Matt Orlando
Jack Sellers



The WaterSaver newsletter is published by Chandler's Water Conservation office and is just one more way we're providing Chandler utility customers with inspiring ideas at a reduced cost.

You have received this newsletter because you requested a subscription, asked to receive information from us, or have been identified by Water Conservation as someone who could benefit from the information.



Questions or comments? We want to hear from you! Contact us at conserve@chandleraz.gov

Save! Bring this coupon to any free City of Chandler water conservation class or workshop to receive a free gift.

Offer Expires: May 3, 2012