



WaterSaver Newsletter

November 2012

What's 'New'?

The answer is, 'it depends'.

If you're referring to the City of Chandler's \$200 landscape rebate for 'new' homes, then new could refer to a home that's a couple years old.

Why? Well it sometimes takes that long for folks to completely landscape their property. The rebate for 'new' landscaping isn't valid until both front and back yards are completely landscaped.

How do you qualify for the rebate? It's easy.

- Install a landscape made up of at least 50 percent low water use plants. No, 'low water use' isn't rocks and cactus. In fact, a yard with 50 percent grass may qualify.
- Low water use plants are what you'll find at most nurseries. They thrive here and don't mind hot summer days and low humidity.
- You can look for plant choices on line at [Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert](#) or at [Water Wise Landscaping in Chandler](#). There are hundreds to choose from.
- Call the Water Conservation office when your landscape is complete. You'll receive your rebate in no time.

If you have questions on plants or rebates visit the Water Conservation web site at www.chandleraz.gov/water, call the office at 480-782-3580 or email us at conserve@chandleraz.gov.

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Upcoming Events

November 8

[Smart Irrigation Controllers](#)

November 10

[Chandler Block Party](#)

November 10

[Chuck Wagon Cookoff](#)

November 9 - 12

[Chilies & Chocolate at](#)

[Desert Botanical Garden](#)

November 17

[Composting Workshop](#)

Nov. 30 - Dec. 30

[Noche de las Luminarias](#)

November 24 & 25

[Fall Foliage Festival at](#)

[Boyce Thompson](#)

[Arboretum](#)

See complete schedule at

www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

November

Our winter rains often begin this month so take advantage of this "free" water. Use the 'off', 'stop', or 'rain' setting on your controller to stop the watering cycle without disturbing your programs. Then, watch your landscape for dryness to determine when you need to turn the controller back on. The Maricopa County Flood Control District

Ask A Garden Goddess



What is the best way to capture rainwater?

has a site with updated rainfall amounts across the Valley. Visit <http://www.fcd.maricopa.gov/RainfallPHX.htm> Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 14 days
Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - 4x per day for first 7-10 days to germinate, then once every 7-10 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

Desert Adapted - once every 24 days
High Water Use - once every 11 days

Tree watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 27 days
High Water Use - once every 12 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 - if needed

Annuals watering - once every 5 days

Wildflower watering - once every 1-2 days to germinate, then once every 7 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.chandlerzaz.gov/water or visit the interactive Web site at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com> .

Bonus tip: Rainwater is very beneficial for your plants, and it's free. See the Garden Goddess column for details on rainwater harvesting.

Note: These recommendations are a general guideline only and may need to be modified for your specific site conditions.

It's not your imagination! Plants do look greener and brighter after a rain, there are no contaminants in the water and it's FREE!

The easiest way to collect rainwater in your landscape is to create simple depressions. These can be shallow, but the more area they cover, the more water they can hold. Also called 'swales', these depressions should be designed to hold several inches of water, which will soak (or percolate) into the soil for direct use by the trees, shrubs or groundcovers. [Swales](#) can be formed to look like a natural part of your landscape and native wildflowers can even be seeded in the bottom. Soil removed during construction of depressions can be used to create contouring mounds for visual interest.

Just 1/2 inch of rain falling on a 1500 square foot roof can provide almost 500 gallons of water!

Check out this publication on [rainwater harvesting](#).

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandlerzaz.gov

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing is to stop diggin'."

If you've decided not to plant a winter lawn this season, there is good news! You've saved yourself a whole lotta work by allowing your Bermuda lawn to rest or go dormant for the winter. There is nothing wrong with this and in fact, University of Arizona turf specialists agree it's better for the lawn in most cases. This will save you the costs of installation, maintenance and water.

Just so you don't get bored, here are a few things to do with all that time you'll have not taking care of a lawn.

- Adjust your irrigation schedules
- Repair your sprinkler system
- Replace missing emitters or change emitters to dispense more or less water.
- Check the stakes and ties on your trees
- Control weeds
- Prune some landscape plants
- Install colorful low water use plants
- Apply mulch around your plants
- Seed a wildflower area now for spring flowers
- Plan a spring vegetable garden

Follow the link for details about [what to do if you don't overseed](#).

Plant of the Month

Texas Olive (*Cordia boissieri*)

[Texas Olive](#) is a big, thick, rounded shrub that comes from the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and into Mexico. The leaves are big, dusky gray-green, rough to the touch and cover the plant generously. In many, the underside is paler than the top, giving it a silvery sheen from a distance.



Flowers appear from spring through fall and are big and prominent, each up to 2 inches around and held in tight clusters on the stems. They are pure white graced by a delicate yellow throat and are followed by a green to white fruit that someone thought looked like an olive, hence the common name. Birds and other creatures like this fruit. See the header above for closer look at the flowers.

This cordia sometimes suffers from salt burn when it is grown in areas with poor drainage or where watering is light and too shallow. Watering deep but at long intervals will help to eliminate salt buildup.



For more landscape choices and design ideas to help you create a vibrant, attractive, colorful low water use landscape try [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

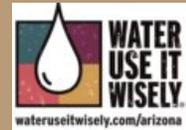
Council Members

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

City of Chandler | PO Box 4008, MS 404 | 975 E Armstrong Way | Chandler | AZ | 85286