



Chandler • Arizona



WaterSaver Newsletter

June 2013

Don't Get Hosed: Savvy Ways to Save Money and Water!

Last year Chandler water audit participants saved over **10 million** gallons of water after following advice from the City's Water Conservation Staff. That's a lot of water and it also means hundreds of dollars saved by residents.

A water audit is simply a free on-site evaluation of water-using fixtures, hardware, equipment, landscaping, and management practices to determine the efficiency of your home's water use.

Once you request an audit a Chandler Water Conservation Specialist will tour your property to show how you can locate leaks and learn practical ways to repair them. We'll even give you money-saving rebate and incentive information. Best of all, your appointment can be conveniently scheduled M-F between 6:30 am and 3:00 pm.



This City-wide program is offered free-of-charge to Chandler water customers. A separate program for HOA's and commercial properties is also available and includes preparation of a water budget to help determine landscape water efficiency. For more information, or to schedule a water audit, call the City of Chandler Water Conservation Office at 480-782-3583, or email us at conserve@chandleraz.gov.

If you would rather perform the in-home residential Water Audit yourself, visit the "[How to Check for a Water Leak](#)" page or simply take the On-Line Water Challenge at www.wateruseitwisely.com.

In This Issue

- [Don't Get Hosed](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Monthly Watering Advice](#)
- [Ask a Garden Goddess](#)
- [Plant of the Month](#)
- [Water Wise Tips](#)

Upcoming Events

- June
[Verde Canyon Railroad tours](#)
- June 8
[Rainwater Harvesting class](#)
- June 8
[Flagstaff Wine & Food Festival](#)
- June 15
[23rd Annual Strawberry Festival](#)
- June 16
[Annual Father's Day Fishing Contest - Pinetop](#)
- June 22
[Prescott Bluegrass Festival](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water

Ask A Garden Goddess



Monthly Watering Advice

June

We're not the only ones feeling the heat. Plants may look a little stressed as they transition to higher temperatures and lower humidity levels. Water demand by plants can be at its highest this month. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 3 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - grass dies out

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 7 days

Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 16 days
- High Water Use - once every 8 days

Shrub watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 12 days
- High Water Use - once every 5 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 12 days
- High Water Use - once every 4 days

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 21 days

Annuals watering - once every 2-3 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: Check your sprinklers after each mowing to be sure they are not broken or misdirected. A broken sprinkler head can lose up to 8 gallons of water a minute!

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

Last summer I heard loud buzzing in my trees. What causes that?

Ahhh. You've got cicadas. Every summer we are serenaded from mid-June through September by these insects. The rest of the year they live underground as nymphs feeding on the roots of trees and shrubs.

About two weeks before the start of our summer monsoon season they emerge from the ground and crawl up walls or trees, shed their skins and transform into adults. The male [cicadas](#) are the ones that do the 'singing' which is actually the vibration of ribbed plates on their bodies.

Females lay their eggs in tiny slits cut into branch tips. Very little damage is done so no control is necessary.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandlerzaz.gov



photo by Mike Plagens

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "The only reason people get lost in thought is because it's unfamiliar territory."

Something to think about this time of year is how to water trees. After all, they are the most important living element in your landscape, take the longest to mature and can be very expensive to replace.

Unlike grass or annual flowers that only need water to soak a few inches into the soil, trees require moisture down to three feet. Water should be applied at the edge of the branches (drip line) and not next to the trunk.

Watering deeply is beneficial for many reasons. Here are just a few.

- Encourages deep rooting
- Pushes accumulated salts down below root zone
- Creates an region of moisture that remains near the roots for longer periods of time
- Allows you to water less often

Plant of the Month

Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*)

Towering over the desert floor reaching heights of 50 feet is the unmistakable Saguaro cactus.

Native to Arizona and southern California below 3,500 ft., these icons begin to grow arms at around 60 or 70 years and can live up to 200 years. [Saguaros](#) generally have 12 - 24 ribs that swell and shrink like an accordion as they store or use water. The ribs are armed with stiff straight spines.



In May, 3-inch wide funnel-shaped white flowers with waxy petals (the state flower of Arizona) bloom at the tips of the arms attracting birds during the day and bats at night. When mature, [oval fruits](#) split open revealing bright red to purple pulp with tiny black seeds that are sweet and edible. The saguaro is an important source of food and shelter for the Tohono O'odham people.

- Watering less often allows oxygen to move through the soil which roots need to process nutrients

Consider adding a 3 inch layer of organic mulch on top of the soil under your trees. It insulates the soil and slows evaporation. When leaves fall on organic mulch, they tend to blend right in saving you maintenance time.

For more information on how often and how much to water trees visit [Landscape Watering by the Numbers](#).

Fun Fact: Saguaros belong to a group of plants that can actually 'hold their breath' and wait until nighttime to breathe or respire when temperatures are cooler as a means to conserve moisture.



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

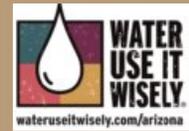
Chandler City Council
Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor
Jack Sellers, Vice Mayor

Council Members
Trinity Donovan
Nora Ellen
Kevin Hartke
Rick Heumann
Jeff Weninger



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

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent by conserve@chandleraz.gov | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
City of Chandler | PO Box 4008, MS 404 | 975 E Armstrong Way | Chandler | AZ | 85286