



WaterSaver Newsletter

May 2013

"X" Rated Landscapes

Imagine a maintenance-free landscape full of color, fragrance, interesting textures, coveted shade and water-efficient plants that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Sound impossible? It's not!

You can have this type of landscape merely by using effective design techniques and plants that like growing here in our salty soils and challenging climate.

Simply called **Xeriscape**

(zer-i-scape) this type of landscaping uses water wise plants and can even include small water

features, patios,

walkways, limited turf areas and effective mulches combined into an eye-appealing environment.

Xeriscape does not need to look like a sea of gravel or barren rocks and cactus. Xeric gardens can be full of beautiful green plants that are water-efficient and able to withstand periods of drought. They are compatible with the environment of our Sonoran Desert which has hot dry summers and cool moist winters.

For help with landscaping ideas use the easy online tool - [Water Wise Landscaping In Chandler](#) or download [Create a Colorful Oasis](#).

Chandler offers rebates for installing Xeriscape at new homes or converting unused lawn areas to low water use landscaping. Visit www.chandleraz.gov/water for details.



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Upcoming Events

May 2

[Smart Irrigation Controller Workshop](#)

May 4

[Chandler Cinco de Mayo & Chihuahua Races](#)

May 1 - May 12

[Butterfly Exhibit at Desert Botanical Garden](#)

May - October

[Butterfly Walks at Boyce Thompson Arboretum](#)

See complete schedule at

www.chandleraz.gov/water

Ask A Garden Goddess



My lawn looks awful with bare patches and dead grass. Is this a disease?



Monthly Watering Advice

May

The middle of May through October is considered our summer watering time. We've already seen our first 100-degree days of the season, so now it's even more critical for your plants to be watered properly. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 4-5 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 3 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 17 days
- High Water Use - once every 8 days

Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 20 days
- High Water Use - once every 10 days

Shrub watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 6 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 6 days

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 24 days

Annuals watering - once every 3-4 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: If water runs off your yard during the irrigation cycle, split the watering into several short cycles. This allows the water to be absorbed at each watering.

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

It sounds like your lawn is going through **'transition'**. This is the phase where winter rye is dying but the underlying Bermuda hasn't begun to grow well yet.

To help your Bermuda:

1. Lower mowing heights 35% and increase frequency.
2. Fertilize with nitrogen- ½ - lb. every two weeks, until lawn is 90% Bermuda.
3. Then apply ½ lb every three weeks, until early fall.
4. Irrigate normally to a depth of 6-8 inches (usually 3 times per week).

If you still have bare areas in mid June re-establish lawn by seed or sod in those locations. Skipping overseeding in the fall will help strengthen your Bermuda for the following year.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said ..."If you don't go out on a limb, you'll never reach the fruit".

Summer is lurking just around the corner with soaring temperatures and blazing sun. Now more than ever it's important to water landscapes efficiently, check for leaks indoors and out, and adopt a lifestyle of conservation. Take Grandpa's challenge and try to make one change that will not only save water, but will trim down your water bill as well.

Before summer makes it too hot to work in your landscape take the time to perform a few water saving steps.

- [Adjust watering schedules](#) - water longer, but not necessarily more frequently.
- [Check your irrigation system](#) - lines can develop

Plant of the Month

[Ironwood](#) (*Olneya tesota*)

The [ironwood](#) tree is one of the largest and longest-lived Sonoran Desert plants, eventually reaching 30 feet tall and living as long as 1,500 years. They are often referred to as a [keystone species](#); those which "enrich their ecosystem in a unique and significant manner".



Ironwood's dramatic character can create a focal point in entries, or as a signature tree in landscapes. The leaves are up to 2 inches long with 6 to 20 grayish green leaflets. Gray and smooth when young, ironwood's bark becomes fissured and shaggy on older limbs and trunks. Flowers bloom in early May ranging from pink and pale rose-purplish to white, with a sweet pea-like

leaks and emitters may become clogged.

- **Apply mulches** - these slow moisture loss, keep plant roots cool and add nutrients to the soil.
- **Control weeds** - they compete with plants for water and nutrients.
- **Pruning** - some light pruning can be done now but wait until after summer to prune most plants.
- **Plant replacement** - while it is possible to plant now, you'll need to monitor irrigation carefully.

Follow the link for more information on [summer landscape preparation](#). If you need help or have questions contact the Chandler Water Conservation Office at 480-782-3583 or email conserve@chandleraz.gov.

appearance. Because they drop a relatively small amount of litter, ironwoods are ideal for poolside landscapes.

Equipped with tiny thorns that deter predators, this tree makes an ideal wildlife refuge for native songbirds like [verdin](#), [warblers](#) and [lesser goldfinch](#) and their seeds provide a protein-rich resource for doves and quail.



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

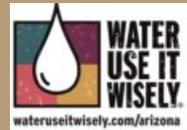
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You have received this newsletter because you requested a subscription, asked to receive information from us, or have been identified by Water Conservation as someone who could benefit from the information.



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

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