



Chandler • Arizona



WaterSaver Newsletter

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April 2014

More Green Per Gallon Lawns



Here are three simple steps you can take to save money and water on your lawn this summer:

1. Give Your Grass Two Drinks (of water) Per Week

Many people overwater their lawns so put your lawn on a "water diet" and it will be healthier. Don't forget to:

- Water early in the morning (12 a.m. to 6 a.m.) for less evaporation.
- Water deeply (6 - 8 inches) and infrequently to leach salts and encourage deep, healthy root growth.

2. Let Your Lawn Breathe

In May use a power rake to [remove the thatch](#) from your lawn. Thatch is dead undergrowth of grass that blocks as much as 70 percent of the water from reaching the roots. Removing this barrier improves water efficiency and helps prevent disease.

3. Remember, More Growing Means More Mowing

Fertilizer promotes growth and the best time to apply is the beginning of the growing season with a balanced product. During the summer try using an [iron supplement](#) instead of fertilizer. You'll get more green with less growth. With less water and less fertilizer, it will be easier to keep your grass at its recommended height of 1 to 1½ inches without excess mowings.

The Water Conservation Office has a free [lawn watering guide](#). Don't miss the [free irrigation workshops](#) offered by the City this April. If you have questions about your landscape, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov or call 480-782-3580.

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Upcoming Events

April 3

[Sprinkler Design & Installation](#)

April 5

[Feathered Friends Festival](#)

April 5

[Wildflower Walk](#)

April 10

[Yard Watering & Timer Instruction](#)

April 17

[Maximize Your Irrigation](#)

April 25

[Earth Day at EEC](#)

June 25

[Master Gardener Training](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

Ask A Garden Goddess



April

March included everything from soaking rains, blustery wind and near-record heat. Temperatures will continue to rise, causing water needs to increase as we head towards summer. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 7 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 4 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

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

Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 24 days
- High Water Use - once every 12 days

Shrub watering:

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

Groundcover and vine watering:

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

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 30 days

Annuals watering - once every 4 days

Native wildflowers - 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.chandleraz.gov/water or visit the interactive web site at www.wateruseitwisely.com.

Bonus tip: Need an irrigation system tune up? Learn how at our free irrigation workshops in April. Visit www.chandleraz.gov/water for dates, times and class details.

My rosemary bush has spots of white foam. What is it?

The frothy white foam is caused by the Spittlebug, a small leafhopper-like insect. The immature Spittlebugs surround themselves with foam as a means of protection from predators.

[Spittlebugs](#) suck juice from leaves but do not really harm a healthy plant. To dislodge them use a strong blast of water from a garden hose or dilute soapy water solution in a trigger sprayer. Keeping weeds under control helps limit Spittlebug populations.



Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov

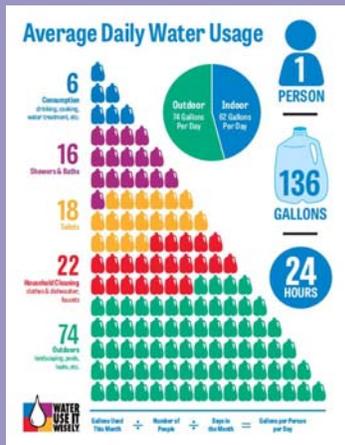
Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Lettin the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin it back in."

The latest numbers on Chandler water consumption are out...and they look good! At 128 gallons per person per day, Chandler residents continued their downward trend in water use again in 2013.

Take a look at the [graphic below](#) to see where water is used by a typical Valley resident. If you're curious to learn how much water you use, try this simple formula.



Water use per month / #days in month / #people in home = gallons per person per day.

April is [Water Awareness Month](#)

Visit the WAM website for ideas, tips, resources and events to help you save water and get more info about Arizona's most precious resource.

Plant of the Month

Blue Emu Bush (*Eremophila hygrophana*)



Somewhat new to the landscape industry, these compact evergreen shrubs are often confused with the more commonly encountered Texas rangers because of their silvery foliage and showy purple flowers. A reliable bloomer, you'll find flowers nearly year round that are attractive to hummingbirds, providing a much appreciated source of nectar.

[Blue emu bush](#) prefers warm, sunny locations and tolerates our alkaline soils but needs good drainage. It can handle cold temperatures down to 17 degrees, has no thorns and minimal litter.

This native of western Australia stays short (about 3 ft. x 3 ft.) with little to no pruning necessary, which makes it a fantastic candidate for most urban landscapes or even containers. Its soft and fuzzy silver foliage looks great in combination with larger, darker evergreen shrubs in the landscape like its cousin Red Emu bush (*Eremophila maculata*).



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](#).

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Sincerely,
Water Conservation Staff

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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.

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



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