



## WaterSaver Newsletter

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March 2014

### Creative Landscaping!

Creating a landscape can seem like a daunting task and may take considerable time and effort to complete. Luckily, the City of Chandler can help with your plans for installation or renovation.

Visit the online resource [Water Wise Landscaping in Chandler](#) which will help you create a vibrant, attractive, colorful low water use landscape. Get ideas from the hundreds of local-area landscape and garden pictures, or find that perfect plant for the right spot in your yard. The categories cover landscape design, plant selection, irrigation, and landscape maintenance in a visually compelling and interactive format.

The **Garden Tour** section has 24 featured landscapes, each with dozens of photos in each section to help you solve your landscaping needs by showing local landscape combinations and solutions. As you move your cursor over various plants in the image, a rectangle or square-shaped button will lead you to more information on that plant.

The **Garden Gallery** section has more than 30 categories highlighting front yards, back yards, patio areas, walkways, shady spaces, entry ways, benches and seating areas and much more.

The **Plants** section provides choices on how to locate plants either by groups (trees, perennials, groundcovers, wildflowers, etc.), by common or botanical name, or using search criteria.

Many local plant sales are held this spring at places like the [Desert Botanical Garden](#) and [Boyce Thompson Arboretum](#) where you can locate hard to find or unusual plants.

Don't miss the [free landscape and irrigation workshops](#) offered by the City this Spring. If you have questions about your landscape, contact the Water Conservation Office at [conserve@chandleraz.gov](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov).

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### Upcoming Events

March 4

[Pruning Your Landscape](#)

March 11

[Basic Yard Makeovers](#)

March 7 - 23

[BTA Plant Sale](#)

March 14 - 16

[DBG Plant Sale](#)

March 22

[Chandler Smart Landscaping](#)

March 22

[East Valley Garden Tour](#)

March 22

[One 4 Water 4-Mile Race](#)

March 24

[Easy Ways to Save Money Indoors](#)

April 3

[Sprinkler Design & Installation](#)

See complete schedule at [www.chandleraz.gov/water](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water)



## Monthly Watering Advice

### March

So far 2014 has given us above normal temperatures and the driest January on record. Warm temperatures in the Valley this February forced Bermuda and other cold sensitive plants like lantana and red bird of paradise 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](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water) or visit the interactive web site at [www.watereuseitwisely.com](http://www.watereuseitwisely.com).

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

### Ask A Garden Goddess



**I want to plant a garden in an area that has Bermuda grass. How do I get rid of it?**

Bermuda is a hard grass to kill which is why it can survive long periods without water and temperatures over 115 degrees.

The best way to kill it and prevent it from growing back is to 'trick' it by watering, fertilizing and pampering until you use an herbicide to kill it. Products containing **glyphosate** as the active ingredient work the best and can be found in brands such as Doomsday, Weed Pro, Ultra Kill, Killzall, RoundUp, etc. Follow instructions exactly.

A handy brochure on [getting rid of Bermuda](#) is available from the local water conservation office and you may qualify for a [rebate](#).

Email your question to [GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov](mailto:GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov)

### Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Being nimble is more important than being perfect." As I recall he was pretty nimble and kept active around the farm doing chores and making repairs.

Speaking of being active, this time of year we all seem to be enjoying the outdoors either by hiking, picnicking, gardening or running. For those of you who are runners, don't forget the One for Water 4-Miler on March 22, where you can test your skills at chasing down leaks by competing against a running toilet!

This is a fun local race that offers something for everyone - a fast course, desert scenery, fabulous prizes, swag, food, and a "tank chaser" to beat a running toilet. Whether you're an intense or laid back runner, this chip timed 4-mile loop run promises a unique blend of the traditional race with some distinctive moments.

Plus you'll get your hands on the newest and coolest tools to help you find and fix leaks. The fun family festival offers leak-fixing demos, kids activities, music, food and more

### Plant of the Month

[Desert Marigold](#) (*Baileya multiradiata*)

This is one of the easiest to grow and carefree flowering perennials for landscapes in the southwest.

[Desert marigold](#) blooms nearly year-round with bright yellow daisylike flowers on tall slender stalks which look stunning in the landscape or as cut flowers indoors. Each plant grows to about 1 ft. tall and wide making it perfect for small spaces. It looks best planted in full sun and will even tolerate reflected heat. A landscape with gravel mulch is perfect.



It's gray green leaves are covered with fine white hairs - a strategy to reduce evaporation from the surfaces and to reflect heat. Try planting purple flowered perennials such as verbena with desert marigold for eye catching color.

Water carefully - just enough to keep the plants vigorous.



Come celebrate  
Fix A Leak Week!  
Check out the details at the  
[Fix A Leak Week](#) website.

Generally a deep soaking once every two weeks in summer and once per month in the winter is adequate. Too much water will cause rotting, especially in the summer. In the fall, prune the plants to a few inches above the ground. Plants are fairly short lived (2 -3 years) but reseed easily. Seeds are relished by doves, sparrows, and finches.



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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Trinity Donovan  
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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.

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](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov)

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