



Chandler • Arizona



## WaterSaver Newsletter

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January 2015

### Going Wild

Short days and long, chilly nights make it tough on our wildlife friends to find food and shelter. It's hard to hide when your favorite tree or shrub has no leaves. Seed-eating birds, looking for food on the ground, can be vulnerable to neighborhood cats, hawks and even owls.

You can help native birds by delaying maintenance on your landscape plants. Wait as long as possible to cut back your perennials like bougainvillea, ruellia, cassia and lantana. They're often loaded with fruit and seeds, and the leafless stems provide a valuable refuge for tiny songbirds. In addition, the frost damaged parts help insulate the plant from further cold weather damage.

To create a landscape that attracts wildlife, provide their basic needs - food, water, and shelter. Using desert adapted plants will ensure you attract native wildlife like [Verdin](#), [Lesser Goldfinch](#), [Yellow-rumped Warbler](#), [Albert's Towhee](#), [Curve-billed Thrasher](#), or even [Western Bluebird](#), instead of city birds like pigeons.

Follow this link for more information on creating a [wildlife friendly landscape](#). Dozens of plant choices with photos and descriptions can be found [here](#).

If you have questions on installing, watering, or maintaining your landscape, contact the Water Conservation Office at [conserve@chandleraz.gov](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov) or call 480-782-3580.



### Monthly Watering Advice

#### January

What a great way to start the new year with gentle, soaking rains. This month averages an inch of rain so 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. Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

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### Upcoming Events

January 8 - 29

[Chandler Farmers Market](#)

January 14-18

[Wings over Willcox](#)

January 15

[Terrarium Workshop](#)

January 16

[Chandler Art Walk](#)

January 17

[East Valley Citrus Clinic](#)

January 23 - 25

[Arizona Balloon Classic](#)

January 25

[Dogs' Day in the Garden](#)

February 2 - 25

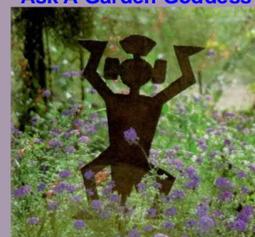
[Smartscape](#)

February 5

[Smart Irrigation Timers](#)

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

### Ask A Garden Goddess



#### Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 30 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 14 days

#### If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 35 days
- High Water Use - once every 18 days

#### Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 45 days
- High Water Use - once every 21 days

#### Shrub watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 30 days
- High Water Use - once every 14 days

#### Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 28 days
- High Water Use - once every 14 days

#### Cacti and succulent watering - if needed

#### Annuals watering - once every 10 days

#### Wildflower watering - once every 15 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.landscapewateringguide.com](http://www.landscapewateringguide.com).

Bonus tip: If you need to clear out some of the weeds in your landscape, this is a great time to hand pull them. It's a lot easier to get attached roots pulled out when the soil is moist. Keep in mind that weeds compete with landscape plants for water.

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

### I know it's winter and plants don't need much water, but how often should I irrigate?

You are absolutely correct! Cool temperatures mean plants water needs are reduced. Page 9 of [Landscape Watering by the Numbers](#) will show you how much water your plants need and page 18 lists how often to apply it.

Better yet, consider a weather based irrigation controller that will water your landscape for you. If you are a Salt River Project customer and attend their [Water Expo](#) on March 7, you can purchase a controller valued at \$280 for a bargain price of \$50. Visit [srpnet.com](http://srpnet.com) for to register.

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

## Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Worrying is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do, but doesn't get you anywhere."

The next time you receive a water bill remember that it's the water department's job to make sure each person receives enough water at just the right pressure for things like a good shower at 7 a.m.

With every monthly water bill, Chandler residents are paying for a system built to meet their water demands every minute of every day. When you pay your bill, you also help to build and maintain the infrastructure that includes:

- 1,230 miles of water lines to bring drinking water into homes.
- 40,000 valves the City uses to control fire hydrants and reroute water when it needs to repair or do maintenance on a water line.
- 79,500 water meters that measure water use at each home and business.
- 900 miles of underground pipes to remove wastewater from homes and businesses and transport it to treatment centers.
- 120 miles of underground pipelines to reuse 100 percent of reclaimed wastewater.

Follow the link to see more on [What You Pay for in Your Water Bill](#). Read how Chandler saves water at [www.chandleraz.gov/water](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water).

## Plant of the Month

### Texas Sages (*Leucophyllum* spp.)

Texas sages are among the most reliable and fool-proof of low water use plants. These evergreen shrubs are native to Texas and Mexico, and perform well in our desert location tolerating full sun and reflected heat.



With the onset of warm weather, the [Texas sages](#) explode intermittently in bursts of color with a variety of flower colors. They can survive on little to no supplemental water except during periods of extreme drought, and can die if overwatered. To keep them looking their best water to a depth of two feet, two or three times a month in summer tapering to once a month in winter.

While some Texas sages mature at 6 or 8 feet, there are smaller varieties which are more suitable for home landscapes. Consider the [Blue Ranger](#) (*Leucophyllum zygophyllum*). This petite selection tops out at about 3 feet tall and wide. It has a rather soft silhouette, grey-green foliage, and blue flowers. This species has distinctive cupped leaves that easily identify it.



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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Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor  
Rick Heumann, Vice Mayor

### Council Members

Trinity Donovan  
Nora Ellen  
Kevin Hartke  
Jack Sellers  
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.

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Questions or comments? We want to hear from you! Contact us at [conserve@chandleraz.gov](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov)



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