



WaterSaver Newsletter

April 2012

WAM!

This April, join in the celebration of Water Awareness Month (WAM).

Water Awareness Month emphasizes the importance of using water more efficiently. Water education is a cornerstone of any comprehensive water conservation program, and greater awareness of water issues can be gained through community education, action and celebration of water. Practicing a low water-use lifestyle is a way each individual and business in Arizona can help ensure a long-term, sufficient water supply. You can make a difference in our future by making small changes, starting today.

At the heart of WAM is a day-by-day calendar of activities, tips and resources for you. You'll find hundreds of events, resources and water-saving tips like Be Cool with your Pool, What's Your Water Footprint?, and the True Cost of Bottled Water.

What would WAM be without you? We want to hear from you - become a friend on facebook and upload a photo or a video that shows how you can save water, then come back to see what your neighbors are doing. All uploads will be entered in a drawing to win fabulous prizes.

Just point your browser to waterawarenessmonth.com and you'll be on your way!

Check It Out! Visit downtown Chandler's City Hall this month and see the sixteen-foot tall Water Pyramid. The tower is made up of 136, 1 gallon bottles that represent the amount of water the average person in the Valley uses each DAY!

If you are experiencing high water consumption, contact the Water Conservation office to schedule a free home water audit. 480-782-3583 For more details on water saving tips visit the Water Conservation website at www.chandleraz.gov/water

In This Issue

[Water Awareness Month](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Monthly Watering Advice](#)

[Ask a Garden](#)

[Goddess](#)

[Plant of the Month](#)

[Water Wise Tips](#)

Upcoming Events

April 3 -

[Plant Care in the Desert](#)

April 12 -

[Maximize Your Irrigation](#)

April 19 -

[Sprinkler Design & Installation](#)

April 20

[Earth Day at EEC / Arbor Day](#)

April 26 -

[Yard Watering & Timer Programming](#)

May 3 -

[Smart Irrigation Timers](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

Ask A Garden Goddess



April

March included everything from soaking rain and pounding hail to 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.chandlerzaz.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.

The leaves of my roses and bougainvillea have semi-circular pieces missing. What causes that?

Congratulations! Your yard has been chosen by one of our best pollinators - the [Leafcutter Bee](#). This small, solitary, non-stinging bee cuts nearly perfect circles from tender leaves, rolls them up cigar-style, and flies off with them. They locate ¼-½ inch diameter openings in places like patio pots, old nail holes, or small spaces above patio door or window screens. The leaves aren't eaten but used to line the openings to create a brood chamber where pollen is added as a food source for baby bees.

Plants can withstand a great deal of defoliation without harm. I know most of us are much more dangerous with a pair of pruning shears than 100 leafcutter bees!

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandlerzaz.gov



Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "It's better to have loved and lost than to have to do forty pounds of laundry a week." I think the message was directed at Grandma 'cause Grandpa didn't do laundry.

In any case, doing laundry these days can be a breeze if the new WaterSense and Energy Star labeled appliances are used.

These products are at least 20 percent more efficient than their counterparts and light years ahead of Grandma's washer. A traditional clothes washer that is 0 - 10 years or older uses about 41 gallons per load compared to a new WaterSense labeled washer which will use about 15 gallons per load. That's a savings of over 26 gallons per load!

In Chandler, residents who purchased High Efficiency Washers (HEW) each saved over 10,000 gallons per year!

For more details on these new clothes washers visit the [Arizona Department of Water Resources](#).



Plant of the Month

[Blue Palo Verde](#) (*Parkinsonia florida*)

Palo verdes are native to the arroyos and foothills of the southwestern deserts and Mexico. Their unique green to blue-green bark and branches carry on photosynthesis, even when their small leaves are not present.

In the spring these trees are covered with masses of bright yellow flowers, providing some of the most outstanding spring color in our deserts. Blue palo verde is the largest of the cercidium, reaching a mature size of up to 30 feet tall and wide. It is the first of the species to bloom in the spring and has the most spectacular show of color. The bark, branches, and leaves are blue-green, but trunks on older trees turn rough and grey with age.



Don't want thorns? Look for thornless hybrids such as [Sonoran Emerald](#), [Palo Rojo](#), [Desert Museum](#) or [AZT Thornless](#).



For more landscape choices and design ideas to help you create a vibrant,

attractive, colorful low water use landscape try the on-line edition of "Water Wise Landscaping in Chandler". Visit chandleraz.gov/water

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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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

Save

Bring this coupon to any free City of Chandler water conservation class or workshop to receive a free gift.

Offer Expires: May 3, 2012

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