



Chandler • Arizona



WaterSaver Newsletter

June 2012

Chandler Residents Save Money After Water Audits!

When the Water Conservation Office recommends a water audit, some folks envision a nosey examiner scrutinizing their water use.

Really though, a water audit is simply a free on-site evaluation of water-using fixtures, hardware, equipment, landscaping, and management practices to determine the efficiency of your home's water use. Last year residents saved up to 40 percent on their water bills after following water conservation advice.

As part of this program, a Chandler Water Conservation Specialist will tour your property to show how you can easily conserve water and save money. We'll even give you money-saving rebate and incentive information. Best of all, your appointment can be conveniently scheduled M-F between 6:30 am and 3:00 pm.

This City-wide program is offered free-of-charge to Chandler water customers. A separate program for HOA's and commercial properties is also available. For more information, or to schedule a water audit, call the City of Chandler Water Conservation Office at 480-782-3583, or email us at conserve@chandleraz.gov.

More details are available by visiting the [Water Audit](#) page on the Water Conservation web site.

If you would rather perform the in-home residential Water Audit yourself, simply take the on-line Water Challenge at www.wateruseitwisely.com

In This Issue

[Save Money with Audits](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Monthly Watering](#)

[Advice](#)

[Ask a Garden Goddess](#)

[Plant of the Month](#)

[Water Wise Tips](#)

Upcoming Events

June

[Summer Nature Camps at the Chandler Environmental Education Center](#)

June

[Summer Concerts at Flagstaff Arboretum](#)

June

[Visit Ramsey Canyon, the Hummingbird Capital of the U.S.](#)

June 23, 2012

[Butterfly Walk at Boyce Thompson Arboretum](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

June

We're not the only ones feeling the heat. Plants may look a little stressed as they transition to higher temperatures and lower humidity levels. Water demand by plants can be at its highest this month. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Ask A Garden Goddess



Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 3 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - grass dies out

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 7 days

Tree watering:

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

Shrub watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 12 days
- High Water Use - once every 5 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 12 days
- High Water Use - once every 4 days

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 21 days

Annuals watering - once every 2-3 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: Check your sprinklers after each mowing to be sure they are not broken or misdirected. A broken sprinkler head can lose up to 8 gallons of water a minute.

My citrus tree is dropping hundreds of tiny fruit. What can I do?

Relax, this is usually normal. Small fruit typically drop from trees in June as the tree varies its fruit load according to the amount of fruit it can successfully carry to maturity.

Excess heat, lack of soil moisture or dry and windy weather conditions, as well as inadequate nitrogen can increase fruit drop.

Be sure to water deeply, but infrequently. Follow this link to [citrus irrigation](#).

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandlerzaz.gov

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Every path has some puddles." This makes me think about the puddles that appear where the air conditioner drips water on the side of the house.

Air conditioners dehumidify the air, resulting in the condensation of excess water that's drained out of the air conditioner or is collected inside of the A/C unit.

It's amazing how much water is collected - especially when the humidity increases during our monsoon season and A/C units are running nearly non-stop. A central A/C for an entire home can collect 5 to 20 gallons of condensate water per day! Large commercial buildings can actually capture enough condensate to supply irrigation for their surrounding landscape.

The quality of this water is essentially the same as distilled water but it should NEVER be used for human consumption as it may contain dust, bacteria, heavy metals and other contaminants.

To direct the water to your landscape simply connect a hose or tubing to the condensate drip pipe and direct the water where it's needed.

Plant of the Month

Baja Fairy Duster (*Calliandra californica*)



The showy blooms of Red fairy duster, are actually long, protruding stamens (the part that holds pollen) which form deep red, powder puff like clusters. Both the flowers and finely textured foliage have a delicate appearance and lend an almost tropical feel to a landscape. Literally translated, Calliandra means 'beautiful stamen'. Both hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to the blooms.

Plants thrive in full sun and can survive in reflected sun or filtered shade. This medium sized shrub is a native to Baja California and can grow to 6 feet high and wide with dense foliage allowing it to be used as an informal screening plant. Baja Fairy Duster can be grouped with other desert-adapted plants adding a splash of color to the landscape.



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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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



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