



Chandler • Arizona



WaterSaver Newsletter

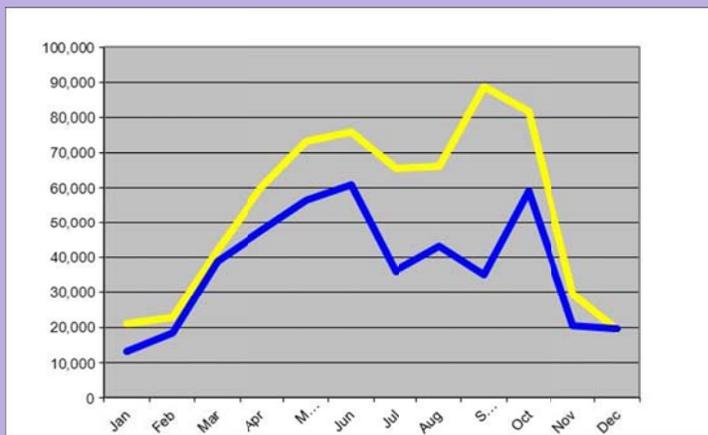
May 2012

Get 'Smart' and Save Money



A new generation of products are available that will automatically adjust your irrigation schedule based on actual site and weather conditions. 'Smart' controllers can prevent irrigation when it rains, apply more water to your landscape during unexpected hot and dry spells, and automatically adjust watering to reduce runoff from slopes. You save water, money, and have healthier landscapes.

These controllers have the potential to save up to 30 percent on your landscape watering, especially if you are watering lawn areas. Plus you may be eligible to collect a rebate of one-half the cost of the controller up to \$250!



Actual 'Smart' controller water savings results in Chandler.

Is a 'Smart' Irrigation Controller Right for You? Check out our rebate [web page](#) for Frequently Asked Questions about Smart Controllers as well as a list of [Qualifying Smart Controllers](#) and where to find them. Or call our Water Conservation Specialist at 480-782-3583.



Monthly Watering Advice

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Upcoming Events

May 3

["Smart"](#)

[Irrigation Controllers](#)

May 19

[Chandler](#)

[Centennial Bash at](#)

[Tumbleweek Park](#)

May 18

[Desert Horticulture](#)
[Conference](#)

See complete schedule at
www.chandleraz.gov/water

Ask A Garden Goddess



My grape leaves are being eaten by something. What is it?

It sounds like [grape leaf skeletonizers](#) have found your vines. They are small yellow and blue/black caterpillars that eat the green leaf tissue and leave the veins. Adults are small, skinny black moths that are often

May

From the middle of May through October is considered our summer watering time. Our first 100-degree days of the season have already arrived, so now it's even more critical for your plants to be watered properly. The key is to water deeply. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 4-5 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 3 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 17 days
- High Water Use - once every 8 days

Tree watering:

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

Shrub watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 6 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 6 days

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 24 days

Annuals watering - once every 3-4 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: Take the guesswork out of scheduling how much and how long to water, and how to program your timer. Register for the "Smart" Irrigation Controller class and learn about timers that do it for you. Rebates of up to \$250 are available.

mistaken for a wasp. Be careful, the caterpillars have stinging hairs that can cause burning reactions on skin.

Treat with Bt (pronounced BeeTee), a bacteria (*Bacillus thuringensis*) that only targets caterpillars and is safe for other wildlife, pets and humans. Spray undersides of leaves where caterpillars begin chewing.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "We can't direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails."

This time of year folks who overseeded their lawns with winter rye are in the middle of 'transition' when the Bermuda grass is struggling to grow but is often hindered by rye grass that's still alive. It prevents the Bermuda from coming back as early or as strong because it competes for light and nutrients.

A little 'adjusting' will have your summer lawn flourishing in no time. We asked experts from the University of Arizona's Karsten Turf Research Facility for tips on spring transition. They say:

- Begin mowing at a lower height to reduce the height of the rye when the minimum nighttime temperature is 60°F or higher for five days in a row.
- Do **NOT** stop watering your lawn as this will drastically slow the "new" bermudagrass underneath.
- Consistently water to a depth of 8 inches every 4 - 5 days during May and once every 2 - 3 days in June.
- Fertilize your lawn monthly with 1/2" lb. nitrogen (N) - per 1000 square feet .

Follow this link for more information on [spring lawn transition](#).

Plant of the Month

Yucca (Yucca elata)

[Yuccas](#) are bold evergreen accent plants with a wide range of textures and exceptional white flowers. They provide interest and focal points when combined with soft-textured shrubs like ruellia and leucophyllum. Yuccas require good drainage, full sun exposure, and are hardy in cold winters. They survive on minimal watering, yet benefit from monthly soakings during the summer.



Yuccas provide a southwestern flavor to the landscape, but choose their location carefully. Because of the sharp leaves and large size of some yuccas, avoid placing close to walkways, windows or patios. Yucca's striking silhouette makes it a good choice for background plantings. Avoid removing the old leaves of yuccas; they provide protection to the plant from sunburn, cold and insects. Dramatic bloom stalks provide flowers that are edible .



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"](#).

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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