



Chandler • Arizona



## WaterSaver Newsletter

April 2013

### [Where Does All That Water Go?](#)

Americans use much more water each day than individuals in both developed and undeveloped countries. For example, the average European uses 53 gallons while the average [Sub-Saharan](#) citizen, 3-5 gallons.

In Chandler the average resident uses 132 gallons per day to flush toilets, water lawns, and wash dishes, clothes, and cars. In fact, up to 70 percent of home water is used outdoors. Nearly 14 percent of the water a typical homeowner pays for is never even used - it leaks down the drain or soaks into the soil.

Here's how water use per person typically breaks down.

Consumption (Drinking, cooking, water treatment, etc.)	6 gallons
Showers & baths	16 gallons
Toilets	18 gallons
Household cleaning (clothes & dishwasher, faucets)	22 gallons
Outdoors (landscaping, pools, leaks, etc.)	70 gallons
<b>Total</b>	<b>132 gals/day</b>



April is Water Awareness Month and you can find fun and easy ways to save water along with resources, events and activities by visiting [www.waterawarenessmonth.com](http://www.waterawarenessmonth.com). Don't miss the 16 foot tall water pyramid on display in City Hall during the month of April.

If you have questions, call the Water Conservation office at 480-782-3580 or email us at [conserve@chandleraz.gov](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov).

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### **[Upcoming Events](#)**

April 11

[Sprinkler Design & Installation](#)

April 18

[Yard Watering & Controller Programming](#)

April 25

[Maximize Your Irrigation](#)

April 26

[Earth Day](#)

at the Environmental Education Center

April 27

[Composting Workshop](#)

May 2

[Smart Irrigation](#)

[Controller Workshop](#)

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

### **Ask A Garden Goddess**





## Monthly Watering Advice

### April

March included everything from soaking rains to 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](http://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.

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

### I'd like to use mulch in my yard but I've been told it attracts bugs.

Have no fear. Mulch or compost does not attract any more bugs than normal. However large wood chips or bark chunks leave spaces where critters may decide to take up residence.

Organic mulch applied to the soil will settle in a few weeks and shouldn't move in winds. The City uses chipped or shredded wood mulch from pruned trees and shrubs in many of its parks instead of granite. It helps insulate the soil, and provides nutrients to plant roots as it decomposes.

A 3 - 4 inch layer of mulch will also prevent most weeds from sprouting. Take care not to pile it against the trunks or stems of plants to avoid suffocation.

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



Organic mulch

## Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said ... "Minds are like parachutes - they only function when open." So 'open' your mind as you read the next paragraphs.

1-6-20-3-36! Lottery numbers? Nope.

1 compromised spray head dispenses approximately 6 gallons per minute (gmp). At 20 minutes a day, 3 days per week, 36 weeks per year, that's **12,690** gallons wasted annually. Even more if you plant a winter lawn.

Replacing old spray heads with new, more efficient models can reduce your water use and save you money. This is easier than you might think. In most cases it's not necessary to replace the entire sprinkler housing, just the spray nozzle. If you can unscrew the cap on a bottle of water and then put it back on, you can replace a sprinkler

## Plant of the Month

### Lady Banks Rose (*Rosa banksiae*)

A thornless, nearly evergreen vine native to dry regions in China, the Lady Banks Rose adapts well to our desert climate and soils.



Its shiny green compound leaves are a great background to the hundreds of mildly fragrant flower clusters which appear in March and April. Two color choices are available - creamy white or clear yellow. A fast grower, this climbing rose will sprawl on a fence or trellis to 20 feet tall and 15 feet wide. Lady Banks is vigorous and extremely resistant to insects and diseases and does not need to be cut back

nozzle.

New sprinkler products on the market can save as much as 42 percent on the amount of water applied to your lawn. And, because the water is applied more slowly, and in droplets instead of mist, it soaks deeper into the soil and with less chance for runoff. They also deliver water more evenly over their entire coverage area, a vast improvement over conventional sprinklers.

Look for [multi-stream](#) or [oscillating](#) spray heads at your local irrigation supply store. Follow the links for information on this [equipment](#) as well as [instructions for changing sprinkler heads](#).

each year like modern roses. Although this rose requires regular deep irrigations it is very drought tolerant once established and does best when planted in full sun or afternoon shade locations.

Note: The world's largest rose which grows in Tombstone, Arizona is a [Lady Banks Rose](#) . It was planted in 1884 and covers 8,000 square feet!



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](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov)

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