



# WaterSaver Newsletter

February 2013

## [Get Your Garden Goin'](#)

Gardening in the desert is different from just about anywhere else. Our desert seasons are opposite of what you may be familiar with and our soils require special treatment before planting annual vegetables or flowers. The good news is that a wide variety of vegetables and herbs can be successfully grown here in the low desert.

We basically have two planting seasons - spring and fall. You should be ready to plant from seeds or transplants by the end of this month in time for our brief but productive spring. Things to try include tomatoes, snap beans, corn, cucumbers, melons, okra, parsley, peppers, pumpkin, summer squash, chilies, etc.

Most gardeners take the summer off, then plant winter crops starting in September. This includes carrots, dill, chives, oregano, hard squash, lettuce, cilantro, beets, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, chard, peas, spinach, etc.

The key to success in vegetable, herb or annual beds is soil preparation and the key ingredient is organic matter like compost or mulch. You'll need to add 3 inches of organic matter once or twice each year because it break downs rapidly in our alkaline soils.

Need help? Make plans to attend the free [Water Wise Edible Landscaping](#) class on February 19 to learn more or download [10 Steps to Successful Vegetable Gardening](#). 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

- February 19  
[Water Wise Edible Gardening](#)
- February 23 & March 2  
["Chandler Smart" Landscaping](#)
- March 9 & 16  
["Chandler Smart" Landscaping](#)
- March 5  
[Pruning & Maintaining Your Landscape](#)
- March 16 & 17  
[Plant Sale at the Desert Botanical Garden](#)
- March 19  
[Basic Yard Makeovers](#)

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



## Monthly Watering Advice

February

## Ask A Garden Goddess



What's the best way to water my vegetable garden?

January's roller-coaster weather has taken us from record low temperatures to record highs and record rainfall in the Valley. No supplemental watering is needed for desert adapted plants for at least 3 weeks. Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about two years).

**Lawn watering:**

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 21 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 10 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

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

**Tree watering:**

- Desert Adapted - once every 40 days
- High Water Use - once every 18 days

**Shrub watering:**

- Desert Adapted - once every 25 days
- High Water Use - once every 12 days

**Groundcover and vine watering:**

- Desert Adapted - once every 24 days
- High Water Use - once every 12 days

Cacti and succulent watering - no water needed

Annuals watering - once every 7 days

Wildflower watering - once every 12 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 <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>

**Bonus tip:** If plants have been damaged by cold, wait until danger of frost has passed (about Feb. 29) and/or new growth has emerged before pruning off the damaged areas. The frosted plant parts will help protect the remainder of the plant.

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

The most efficient way to water is with drip irrigation and not sprays or sprinklers. Drip puts the water near the roots and not into the air where it can evaporate. Look for 1/4 inch tubing with built in embedded or "in line" emitters spaced 6 or 12 inches apart.

The Goddess admits that, in the past, she placed drip tubing on top of mulch to make sure it was working properly. But the correct placement is actually below the mulch and above the soil. The UV rays from the sun can cause tubing to become brittle and break.

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



## Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Promise only what you can deliver. Then deliver more than you promise."

Years ago, Chandler promised to diversify its water portfolio and work hard to reduce its reliance on any one water source. You may not realize when you turn on a faucet the water you see may have traveled 1000's of miles to get there.

Rain and snowmelt from mountains far north of Chandler collect in lakes and reservoirs and then makes its way to us via streams, rivers and canals. Some [surface water](#) comes from as far as 1,500 miles away in the Colorado River and through the [CAP](#) canal.

Another source of water is [groundwater](#) which is pumped from deep in the ground via Chandler's system of over 25 underground wells.

In addition, Chandler uses [reclaimed water](#) for golf courses, parks and landscapes. A state-of-the-art treatment process cleans wastewater from your kitchens, laundry rooms, bathrooms and sinks. It's a safe and vital part of Chandler's Water Conservation effort, conserving our valuable drinking water supply.

As a consumer of Chandler water, the most important action you can take is to become aware of the ways you use water and incorporate water-saving measures into your daily lifestyle. Easy tips for saving water are available at [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com).

## Plant of the Month

### [Blue Euphorbia](#) (*Euphorbia rigida*)

This unique shrubby perennial has arching, upright stems lined with fleshy, stiff, gray-green leaves arranged in spiral formation. [Blue euphorbia](#) begins to bloom in mid-winter with broad clusters of unusual chartreuse flowers at the branch tips.



Each plant grows to 1-2 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide making it perfect for small spaces. It produces minimal litter and is well suited near pools.

Sometimes called Gopher Plant, it thrives in full sun or afternoon shade but requires well drained soils to avoid bacterial or fungal rot. It can also be used as a groundcover by spacing plants two feet apart or is attractive in rock gardens and containers.

Blue euphorbia is native to the Mediterranean and is drought tolerant once established. It requires little maintenance except to cut stems back after flowering. A relative of Poinsettias, its milky sap may cause irritation to those with sensitive skin.



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

### Chandler City Council

Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor  
Jack Sellers, Vice Mayor

### Council Members

Trinity Donovan  
Nora Ellen  
Kevin Hartke  
Rick Heumann  
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.

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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Try it FREE today.

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