



WaterSaver Newsletter

January 2013

Serious About Citrus

Citrus is a large group of plants cherished for their colorful, tasty fruit as well as the captivating fragrance of their flowers.



They have a long heritage in Arizona being introduced to this region by the Spanish missionaries. With low frost, minimal high winds, and endless sunshine, the low desert was a natural setting for healthy trees and high-quality fruit.

Dozens of varieties are available with unique qualities to meet every need right down to the size of the tree. Not sure what kind of fruit you like best? Wondering about how to care for your citrus? Want to taste a [pummelo](#) or see a [Budda's Hand](#)? You'll find answers to these questions and lots more at the annual [Citrus Clinics](#) held by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. Two locations are set for January including one in Mesa. Follow the link in 'Upcoming Events' for details.

If you're thinking of planting your favorite citrus tree there's time to select the variety before spring. March is perfect for installing your tree and gives it time to acclimate before summer. Remember, citrus like to be watered deeply but infrequently, allowing to soil to dry just a bit before applying more. The University of Arizona has a handy guide to [irrigating citrus](#) on line.

More information:

- [Citrus varieties and citrus care](#)
- [Citrus history in Arizona and fun facts](#)

If you have questions, call the Water Conservation office at 480-782-3580 or ask the Garden Goddess at GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov.

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Upcoming Events

January 12

[Science Saturday](#)
at Tumbleweed Ranch

January 15

[Master Gardener
Training](#)

January 19

[East Valley Citrus Clinic](#)

February 19

[Smartscape Training](#)

February 19

[Water Wise Edible
Gardening](#)

February 23 & March 2

["Chandler Smart"
Landscaping](#)

See complete schedule at
www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

Ask A Garden Goddess



January

What a great way to start the new year with most areas receiving a little rain this week. Use the 'off', 'stop', or 'rain' setting on your controller to stop the watering cycle without disturbing your programs. Then, watch your landscape for dryness to determine when you need to turn the controller back on. Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 30 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 14 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 35 days
- High Water Use - once every 18 days

Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 45 days
- High Water Use - once every 21 days

Shrub watering:

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

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 28 days
- High Water Use - once every 14 days

Cacti and succulent watering - if needed
Annuals watering - once every 10 days
Wildflower watering - once every 15 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 or visit the interactive Web site at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>.

Bonus tip: If you need to clear out some of the weeds in your landscape, this is a great time to hand pull them. It's a lot easier to get attached roots pulled out when the soil is moist. Keep in mind that weeds compete with landscape plants for water.

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

I've heard about a new disease that could kill my orange tree. What is it?

Arizona is under alert for Citrus Greening Disease (huanglongbing), caused by a bacteria transmitted by the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), an invasive, aphid-like insect that has decimated groves in Florida and has been confirmed in California, Yuma and Nogales.

There is no known cure for this disease and infected trees must be removed and destroyed to prevent further spread. The Arizona Department of Agriculture and USDA are canvassing some neighborhoods looking for affected trees and leaving door hangers with details.

Click here for more information on [Citrus Greening Disease](#).

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "If you concentrate on one thing, then everything else becomes easier. But if you concentrate on many things, you achieve nothing."

This month's topic concentrates on water efficient products, new homes, and services that have earned the WaterSense label. They've been certified to be at least 20 percent more efficient without sacrificing performance.

Since the program's inception in 2006, WaterSense has helped consumers save a cumulative 287 billion gallons of water and over \$4.7 billion in water and energy bills.

It's easy to find and select water-efficient products that can help your wallet and the environment. Just look for products bearing the WaterSense Label at your local retailer. WaterSense labeled products are backed by independent third party testing and certification, and meet EPA's specifications for water efficiency and performance.

For around \$10 to \$20, the average homeowner can install high-efficiency showerheads, replace aerators on the faucets, and repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets.

Plant of the Month

[Sweet Acacia](#) (*Acacia farnesiana*)

An excellent shade tree, sweet acacia reaches a height of 20 feet with an equal spread and is especially suited for patios and small yards. It has feathery, finely divided leaflets of a soft, medium green color. Sweet acacia flowers profusely in the winter to early spring with heavily scented, golden yellow puffball flowers. In European perfumery, essences are distilled from the flowers and used extensively.



This thorny tree is native to the southwestern United States and provides excellent cover and nesting sites for native birds.

[Sweet acacia](#) grows best in deep soils with good drainage. It has excellent heat tolerance but is sensitive to locations with reflected heat from walls, gravel or pavement. It is semi-deciduous and cold-hardy to 10° F.

Thomas Jefferson treasured the sweet acacia trees grown in his Monticello greenhouse. This tree is also sold under

Visit the [WaterSense](#) web site for more information. You can even calculate your water savings!



the names of *Acacia smallii* and *Acacia minuta*.



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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