



WaterSaver Newsletter

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November 2013

The Best Landscaper of All

Frequently our office receives requests asking for names of good landscapers. Because the City must remain impartial we aren't able to make any recommendations. Except for one....Mother Nature. Use her as a guide and you'll hardly go wrong.



For instance, in nature, rainfall is directed over the canopy of a tree and falls to the ground off the edges of the branches. We call it the drip line. This is where 90 percent of a tree or plants water-absorbing roots are located. Now think about where your emitters are placed in your landscape. Chances are they are near the trunk or stem and have been there for years.

It's important to move emitters to the drip line as plants grow. That way the water source is in the region where the 'feeder' roots are. You may need to add additional emitters as plants become larger as well. Moving emitters away from the trunk will also make your tree or plant more stable in the ground helping to prevent leaning or toppling over.

Mother Nature didn't intend shrubs to be shaped like soup cans, or trees pruned into feather dusters. Doing so can shorten their lives, contribute to wind damage and make them vulnerable to pests and diseases. Plus, it increases their water needs.

November is a great time to heed Mother Nature's advice. If you need help with your landscape, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov or call 480-782-3580 or send a question to the Garden Goddess at GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov.

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Upcoming Events

- November 7
["Smart" Irrigation Controllers](#)
- November 9
[Fall Composting Workshop](#)
- November 9
[Chuck Wagon Cookoff](#)
- Nov. 29 - Dec. 7
[Sedona Festival of Trees](#)
- Nov. 1 - Dec. 31
[Celebrate Arizona's Water](#)
- November 16
[Woofstock](#)
- Now - November 24
[Monarch Butterfly Exhibit](#)
- Nov. 29 - Dec. 31
[Noche de las Luminarias](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

November

Ask A Garden Goddess



I've tried to get rid of ants but they keep coming back. What should I do?

Our winter rains often begin this month so take advantage of this "free" water. 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. The Maricopa County Flood Control District has a site with updated rainfall amounts across the Valley. Visit <http://www.fcd.maricopa.gov/RainfallPHX.htm> Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 14 days
Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - 4x per day for first 7-10 days to germinate, then once every 7-10 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

Desert Adapted - once every 24 days
High Water Use - once every 11 days

Tree watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 27 days
High Water Use - once every 12 days

Shrub watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 21 days
High Water Use - once every 10 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 21 days
High Water Use - once every 10 days

Cacti and succulent watering - if needed

Annuals watering - once every 5 days

Wildflower watering - once every 1-2 days to germinate, then 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.chandleraz.gov/water or visit the interactive web site at www.wateruseitwisely.com .

Bonus tip: Rainwater is very beneficial for your plants, and it's free. You can harvest rain by contouring your yard with small berms, channels, or swales to direct water runoff to your plants. For a downloadable booklet on harvesting rainwater, visit <http://aq.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1052.pdf>

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

Ants are among the most common household and garden pests. They feed on the sugary honeydew left behind by aphids, soft scales, whiteflies, and mealybugs. In exchange, the ants protect those insects from predators and parasites.

Ants also perform many useful functions in the environment, such as feeding on other pests and aerating soil.

To effectively control ants, you'll need to kill the queen. This is best accomplished by using a bait in either in granular or solid form. Ants are attracted to the bait and recruit other workers to carry it back and share with the colony. Follow this link for more information on [ant control](#).

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Happy Thanksgiving!

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Study nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

If you enjoy studying nature and capturing it with your camera you could win \$500!

As a partner in Water - Use It Wisely, Chandler invites you to join us in reflecting on one of our region's most precious resources: water. Take an original photo that you feel celebrates the importance and wonder of water in Arizona, and follow the guidelines at the website below to share it with us.

The most creative and compelling photo will be awarded a \$500 gift card to a local nursery from Water - Use It Wisely and the Arizona Nursery Association. There are several photos already posted and available to view to give you ideas.

While you're at it browse the Water - Use It Wisely site for more water conservation and low-water landscaping tips.

Submission deadline is December 31, 2013. The winner will be notified via email on January 10, 2014.



[Celebrate Arizona Photo Contest](#)

Plant of the Month

[Cascalote](#) (*Caesalpinia cacalaco*)

Most trees bloom in spring but the Cascalote is a fall bloomer providing welcome color from October through January with spikes of yellow flowers at the tips of the branches. Hummingbirds are attracted to the nectar-laden blossoms.



This evergreen tree is native to tropical Mexico and reaches a mature size of 15 feet tall and wide making it perfect for small spaces.

In warm areas [Cascalote](#) is evergreen in winter, but may suffer frost damage if temperatures drop below 20 degrees. When young it produces rose-like thorns on the trunk and branches. A selection is now available which is thornless and appropriately called the 'smoothie'.

Plant in full sun, in well drained soil, and water according to the new plant schedule on page 14 of [Landscape Watering by the Numbers](#). Cascalotes are drought tolerant once established.



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](#)

Water Conservation Staff

Sincerely,

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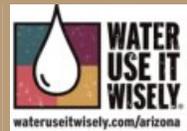


The WaterSaver newsletter is published by Chandler's Water Conservation office and is just one more way we're providing Chandler utility customers with inspiring ideas at a reduced cost.

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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