



Chandler • Arizona



WaterSaver Newsletter

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October 2013

Cutting it Short

It's that time again. The whirring of lawnmowers, clouds of dust, aroma of steer manure, sounds of misting sprinklers..... Ahhhh, it's fall overseeding season.

While it's true that overseeding Bermuda grass lawns with winter rye will provide you with a green, lush lawn for the winter months, it may surprise you to know that more lawns in Chandler are overwatered in the winter months than in summer.

If homeowners choose to overseed lawns this fall, using the [proper techniques](#) can help save money and water.

- Don't overseed too early. If Bermuda is scalped too early in the fall, you will deprive it of good food storage to the roots. This will slow green-up the next spring.
- The best time to overseed lawns in Chandler is from mid-October through mid-November.
- Do not fertilize for 4 to 6 weeks before overseeding.
- Cut the watering frequency in half. Then stop mowing the lawn 7 days before overseeding.
- Scalp down (mow closely) the lawn to allow the seed to make contact with the soil.
- Water the turf 3 - 4 times daily for about 7 days.
- When the grass is 1 inch high water once a day.
- **Once the lawn is established, water once every week.**

Sound like a lot of work? You could skip overseeding this year and use the time you save for other projects. Take a look at the Landscape Tips section of the water conservation web site for details. www.chandleraz.gov/water

If you have questions about your landscape, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov.



Monthly Watering Advice

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Upcoming Events

- October 5
[Chandler Smart Landscaping](#)
- October 10
[Sprinkler Design & Installation](#)
- October 17
[Drip Irrigation Installation](#)
- October 24
[Yard Water and Timer Instruction](#)
- November 7
["Smart" Irrigation Controllers](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water

Ask A Garden Goddess



My yard is overrun with whiteflies, especially on hibiscus. How do I get rid of them?

October

Fall is here, and it's a great time to replace lost plants or install a new landscape. Soils are still warm, which encourages root establishment, but water needs are not as demanding, allowing for greater success. In fact, water needs for plants are about half as much as they were in June. Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 6 days
Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - 4 times per day for first 7-10 days to germinate, then once every 3 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

Desert Adapted - once every 21 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 18 days
High Water Use - once every 9 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 18 days
High Water Use - once every 8 days

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 28 days

Annuals watering - once every 4-5 days

Wildflower watering - once every 1-2 days to germinate, then once every 3-5 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: New plantings need more frequent watering. After planting, water every 3-4 days weeks 1 & 2, every 6-7 days weeks 3 & 4, every 7-10 days weeks 5 & 6, and then gradually extend time between irrigations until plants are established.

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

Tiny adult whiteflies seen near landscape plants (especially lantana and hibiscus) aren't causing the problems. It's the larvae that do the feeding, using their piercing/sucking mouthparts to sip fluid from cells. A spray of water will help knock the larvae off the underside of leaves.

Adult [whiteflies](#) can't resist the color yellow. You can purchase whitefly sticky traps (yes, they are yellow), or you can make your own. Use yellow plastic plates and staple to a wooden stake. Coat the plate with something sticky like petroleum jelly or a product like Tanglefoot (very sticky). Place your yellow plate near your hibiscus, etc., and voila! You've intercepted the adults before they can lay eggs.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Whitefly larva & adult

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Always drink upstream of the herd."

Grandpa's home had indoor plumbing and water was delivered in hollow pipes. By definition a 'hollow' can be an extensive, more or less flat, and relatively low region drained by a great river system. That describes our Salt River Valley. Or it could mean a cavity, gap or space.

Through the ages, fresh drinking water has been delivered in hollow pipes. The Roman's used lead pipes and in fact the word "plumbing" is derived from the Latin word for lead. In many places hollow pieces of wood were used. Really! The wood was cheaper and had a life expectancy equal to metal. In the United States wooden water pipes were used from the 1700's to the mid 1900's. It worked well for water service since the wood remained wet all the time expanding and keeping joints tight. Most wood pipe was reinforced with steel bands, to allow surprisingly high operating pressures. Some wooden pipes are still in use in Pennsylvania, Alaska and Washington State.



Plant of the Month

Pink Trumpet Vine (*Podranea ricasoliana*)

A native of South Africa, this nearly evergreen vine will grow rapidly to 20 feet wide and 10 feet tall. It's deep green, glossy leaves surround loose clusters of large, trumpet-shaped pink flowers from spring through fall. The blooms are lightly scented and attract hummingbirds.



[Pink Trumpet Vine](#) adds vibrant color to block walls, arbors, pergolas and trellises but thornless shoots will need support when young. Tie to a trellis, or interweave the branches into a support structure. If stems contact moist soil, they may root and start a new plant. This robust vine tolerates full sun and reflected heat locations and is cold hardy to 20 degrees. During cold winters stems may suffer freeze damage and should be pruned back in early spring.

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

Over the years, cast iron, reinforced concrete and galvanized pipes have been replaced by durable heavy plastic like polyvinyl chloride (PVC). In some areas high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe is [inserted into existing pipes](#) and smoothly slipped under roads and major highways eliminating open trenches and traffic delays.



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.](#)

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Sincerely,

Water Conservation Staff

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