



How To Keep Your Water Bill From Soaking You

If you've noticed your water bill climbing faster than the thermometer on an August day, all is not lost. Chandler's Water Conservation Office offers everything from advice on water-saving fixtures to installing a water-efficient landscape. In some cases, you may be rewarded with a rebate of \$3,000!

Indoors

Often, small, inexpensive replacements or modifications of equipment can mean big long-term savings, not only of water, but of money and time.

- Install a [water-efficient showerhead](#) with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gallons per minute. Chandler offers free retrofit kits for homes built before 1992.
- Install aerators on your kitchen and bathroom faucets to reduce indoor water use.
- Check for [leaks in toilets](#) by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If color shows in the bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leaky flapper.

Outdoors

- Water only when the grass or plants need it. Bermuda grass seldom needs water more than twice a week in the summer.
- Use a screwdriver or probe to see how far water is soaking into the soil. You can only easily push where soil is moist. If it's hard to probe at 3 inches, run your irrigation system a few minutes longer. The ideal moisture depth for lawns is 6 - 8 inches.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation. New nozzles are available that spray larger drops.

Read the [complete article](#) for even more ways to save!

If you have questions on high water use contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov or call 480-782-3580.

In This Issue

[How to Keep Your Water Bill from Soaking You](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Monthly Watering Advice](#)

[Ask a Garden Goddess](#)

[Plant of the Month](#)

[Water Wise Tips](#)

Upcoming Events

August 2

[Jerome Art Walk](#)

August 4 - 27

[Smartscape](#)

August 16

[Peach Mania Festival](#)

August 14-16

[Payson Rodeo](#)

August 26

[Basic Yard Makeovers](#)

August 30

[Pine-Strawberry Arts & Crafts Festival](#)

September 4

[Drip Irrigation Design & Installation](#)

September 9

[Water Wise Edible Gardening](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water

[Ask A Garden Goddess](#)



Monthly Watering Advice

August

It's the dog days of summer, and even though it feels uncomfortable to us, the higher humidity makes it easier for plants. A few monsoons with lightning have stormed through adding to the potential for power outages. Make sure you've replaced your battery in your irrigation timer within the past year (if it has that option). Battery backup will maintain your programs and clock during an outage. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 3-4 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - grass dies out

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 15 days
- High Water Use - once every 8 days

Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 17 days
- High Water Use - once every 9 days

Shrub watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 13 days
- High Water Use - once every 6 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 12 days
- High Water Use - once every 5 days

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 22 days

Annuals watering - once every 2-3 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.

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



I saw a scorpion in my yard last night. How dangerous are they?

Scorpions are an ancient group of arachnids and in the Southwest there are a wide variety of species ranging in size from 2 - 5 inches long. While all have venom, the bark scorpion (the smallest) has the most painful sting and is the most dangerous to humans.

Their favorite foods are crickets and cockroaches, so by eliminating them, scorpions will go elsewhere or starve. They like dark, damp, places to hide such as river rock 'streams', or piles of wood or debris. Habitat modification is very effective for control while daytime spraying is not. Follow this link for other [scorpion control](#) methods.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail", a quote by Benjamin Franklin that he loved to repeat.

It's monsoon season and that means a chance of rain, wind and dust. While we might not be able to prepare for storm damage, preventing mosquitoes and the diseases they carry (like West Nile virus) is something we can control.

Avoid standing water by being on the lookout for unexpected places where rainwater might collect like tires, dog bowls, bird baths and unclean pools. Empty these as soon as possible because in summer a mosquito's entire life cycle, from egg to adult, can be completed in a week or less.

Plant of the Month

Angelita Daisy (*Hymenoxys acaulis*)

This perky perennial is native to the Southwest and has short, narrow dark green leaves forming dense clumps 10 inches tall by 15 inches wide. Tall leafless stems hold one inch golden daisy-like flowers during most of the year in the low desert.



[Angelita Daisy](#) is small enough to fit into tight spaces and tidy enough for the most discriminating home owner. For a carpet of color use it as a groundcover by spacing plants 12

An easy way to kill and prevent mosquito larvae is to use **Mosquito Dunks**. They contain a subspecies of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, commonly called Bt (pronounced Bee Tee) a bacteria that only targets mosquitoes and is safe for fish, mammals, humans and other wildlife. They're available at home improvement stores, hardware stores and nurseries.

Click here for more information on [mosquito control](#).



- 15 inches apart. It can also be used around boulders or at the base of succulents, in containers, by a pool, to line a path or walkway or in hot, dry, difficult spots.

Plant in full sun. Remove spent flower stalks to encourage continual flowering and to keep it looking its best. Angelita Daisy can reseed and naturalize into the landscape. Hardy down to 10 degrees.



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

[Like us on Facebook](#)

Chandler City Council

Jay Tibshraeny, Mayor
Rick Heumann, Vice Mayor

Council Members

Trinity Donovan
Nora Ellen
Kevin Hartke
Jack Sellers
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

[Forward email](#)

This email was sent by conserve@chandleraz.gov |



[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



City of Chandler | PO Box 4008, MS 404 | 975 E Armstrong Way | Chandler | AZ | 85286