



Chandler • Arizona



WaterSaver Newsletter

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February 2014

S-t-r-e-t-c-h Your Water Use

Living in the Southwest means learning to deal with periods of unusually warm temperatures, reduced snowpack on the watershed and extended dry periods. Here are some tips to help you maintain your quality lifestyle and landscapes.

Adjust Sprinklers, Set Timers - water only landscaped areas (not sidewalks or streets) and be sure to repair broken sprinkler heads promptly. Try the "[Cycle and Soak](#)" method to prevent runoff.

Water Wise Car Washing - a turn-off nozzle on your hose or use a bucket of water to wash your car, rather than allowing water to run continuously.

Dispose of Pool Water Properly - Don't put swimming pool backwash water in the street or alley. Apply as much water as possible to adjacent lawn areas (Bermuda grass can tolerate backwash) or drain backwash water into your sewer cleanout valve.

Waste Not, Want Not - You can play a big part in improving outdoor water management. Most Valley cities can issue citations to people who cause street flooding or damage to city property.

By helping to eliminate unnecessary water use you can ensure an adequate supply now and for the future.

If you have questions about saving water at home, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov. Visit the Water Conservation website for more [landscape tips](#).

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Upcoming Events

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[Smartscape Training](#)

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[Smart Irrigation Controllers](#)

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[Edible Gardening](#)

March 4

[Pruning Your Landscape](#)

March 22

[East Valley Garden Tour](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water

Ask A Garden Goddess



I've been told conflicting information on watering my citrus trees. How much do they need?



Monthly Watering Advice

February

January's above normal temperatures forced many plants out of winter dormancy. Combined with a complete lack of measurable rain, it was one of the driest Januarys ever. Winter rye or annual flowers need the most frequent watering and may require some supplemental water applications if warm temps continue. 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 or visit the interactive web site at www.wateruseitwisely.com.

Bonus tip: If plants have been damaged by cold, wait until danger of frost has passed (about Feb. 15) and/or new growth has emerged before pruning off the damaged areas. The frosted plant parts will help protect the remainder of the plant.

Citrus like to be watered deeply but infrequently. The amount you apply will depend on the size of the tree. For example, if your tree has a canopy diameter of 8 feet, it will need about 38 gallons of water each time you irrigate.

How often you water will depend on the season. In February, you should only need to water citrus once every 2 - 3 weeks. Create a 6 inch tall berm at the drip line (edge of branches) and add a 3 inch layer of organic mulch to help insulate the soil and slow evaporation.

Refer to [Landscape Watering by the Numbers](#), page 9, to determine water amounts.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Happy Valentine's Day

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "If what you did yesterday still looks big to you, chances are you haven't done much today."

A big project this time of year is usually tidying up landscapes by removing frost damaged portions of plants. Keep in mind that even the frosted parts help insulate

the plant from further damage if we get a cold spell in February. By the end of the month most frost danger has passed and plants can safely be pruned. To guide you, try pruning back to the point where you see new growth.

Remember the cardinal rule of pruning and NEVER remove more than 25% of the living plant mass in any year. This rule does not apply to dead tissue.

To restore the natural shape of shrubs that have been continuously shear pruned, you may try [renewal or rejuvenative pruning](#). Once the shrub grows out use natural or [selective pruning](#) o retain its shape and blooming potential.

Be especially careful when pruning trees. Many are being '[liontailed](#)' where the interior foliage is stripped leaving branches top heavy and easily damaged in winds.

For more information, come to the [Pruning & Maintaining Your Landscape](#) class on Tuesday, March 4. Follow the link above to register.

Plant of the Month

Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*)

[Ocotillos](#) are stunning accent plants in our Southwest landscapes. They develop wand-like stems from the base that grow to 12 feet or more.

After a good soaking rain small leaves appear on the stalks and are dropped as soils dry out - an adaptation that allows them to survive in our desert environment. Ocotillos typically bloom in spring with tubular, scarlet flowers at the tips of their long stalks. Nectar feeding birds like verdin and hummingbirds can't resist them.



Usually available 'bare root', ocotillos have almost no root system when purchased and may have been out of the ground for long periods. Their survival rate may not exceed 50%. Look for container plants for better success. Follow this link for more information on [ocotillo care](#).



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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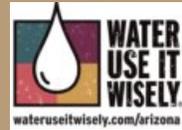
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Questions or comments? We want to hear from you! Contact us at conserve@chandleraz.gov



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