



## WaterSaver Newsletter

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June 2014

### Lawn & Order

Many homeowners prefer a lawn close to the house that may provide a recreational or play area for children or pets, a relaxing place for lawn chairs and family gatherings and to create a cooling effect. Lawns can be functional and their root mass provides erosion control and helps to filter, capture and break down pollutants. In fact, a practical sized lawn can be part of a Xeriscape, as long as it's used sparingly and properly maintained.

To keep your lawn healthy this summer, follow the guidelines below.

- Water lawns only when they need it. If you leave [footprints](#) when walking across the grass, it may be time to water. Bermuda seldom needs water more than twice a week in summer.
- Water deeply. The water should soak down to at least 6 inches. Water lawns with pop up sprays once for 10 - 15 minutes, or break it into 2 or 3 short sessions spaced 30 minutes apart.
- Use a screwdriver to see how far the water is traveling. You can only easily push where soil is moist. If it's hard to probe at 3 inches, run your sprinklers a few minutes longer.
- Check your irrigation system for leaks when it's running and replace [broken spray heads or risers](#).
- Let your grass grow slightly longer in summer. This protects the roots from heat stress by encouraging them to grow a little deeper and reduces water loss to evaporation by shading the soil.
- Instead of using a nitrogen based fertilizer, which increases growth, try water soluble ([chelated](#)) iron to green up the blades.

For information on maintaining your lawn contact the Water Conservation Office for a free [lawn care guide](#). If you have questions about your landscape, contact the Water Conservation Office at [conserve@chandleraz.gov](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov) or call 480-782-3580.

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### Upcoming Events

June 7

[Tucson Weird Plant Sale](#)

June 7, 8

[Arizona Watermelon Festival](#)

June 14

[Strawberry Festival](#)

June 21, 22

[Prescott Bluegrass Festival](#)

June 25

[Master Gardener Training](#)

June 28

[Flagstaff Wildflower Walk](#)

July 4

[Chandler's 4th of July](#)

July 5

[Wonderful Wetlands](#)

See complete schedule at  
[www.chandleraz.gov/water](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water)



## June

We're not the only ones feeling the heat. Plants may look a little stressed as they transition to higher temperatures and lower humidity levels. Water demand by plants can be at its highest this month. 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 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - grass dies out

### If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 7 days

### Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 16 days
- High Water Use - once every 8 days

### Shrub watering:

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

### Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 12 days
- High Water Use - once every 4 days

### Cacti and succulent watering - once every 21 days

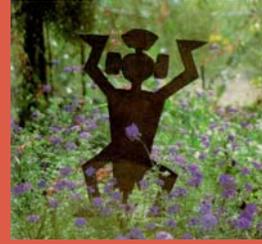
### Annuals watering - once every 2-3 days

**\*\*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](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water) or visit the interactive web site at [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com).

Bonus tip: Check your sprinklers after each mowing to be sure they are not broken or misdirected. A broken sprinkler head can lose up to 8 gallons of water a minute.

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

## Ask A Garden Goddess



### My lawn has brown patches that my landscaper says are pearl scale. How can I tell?

The symptoms of pearl scale can be caused by many, many other things like overseeding stress or poor irrigation, so first make sure your lawn is being watered evenly.

To check for [pearl scale](#), dig a wedge of soil 4 inches deep next to the dead area. The 'pearls' are 1/8 inch insects that attach and feed on the roots of bermuda, especially the hybrids like tifgreen, Midrion, EZ Turf or Bob Sod. The feeding causes circular dead patches.

Applying a product approved for use on pearl scale in June, July or August will provide control, but is usually only 80% effective and may need to be repeated each year.



Email your question to [GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov](mailto:GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov)

## Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "It's never too late to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

Did you know the average household loses more than 10,000 gallons of water each year through leaks? That's the same amount of water needed to wash

280 loads of laundry, take 600 showers, or meet the average family's water needs for a month!

An unexpected high water bill is often the first sign of high water use and may be attributed to irrigation controller

## Plant of the Month

### Coral Fountain (*Russelia equisetiformis*)

Add a splash of color to your landscape with this shrub native to Mexico. Its unusual form is a compliment to any landscape.

[Coral Fountain](#) is quick to establish and produces tubular,



programming or a leak inside or outside the home. The smallest leaks can add up quickly and cost you money!

Fortunately, most leaks are easy to find if you know where to look, and they're often simple to fix. The City of Chandler along with other AMWUA cities developed a new, easy-to-follow guide which will walk you through the process of finding and fixing sneaky leaks that are draining your

budget.

Set a goal this year of maintaining a water efficient home. It's the most important action you can take as a residential water consumer.

A flip book version of [Find & Fix Leaks that are Draining Your Budget](#) is available here. Contact the Water Conservation Office for your free copy at [conserve@chandleraz.gov](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov).



scarlet flowers on nearly leafless, bright green arching branches attracting hummingbirds from Spring to Fall. (See the newsletter header above for a close up of the flowers). It's small size (3' x 4') fits easily into most areas and lends a tropical feel to any yard. It can handle full sun or partial shade but can suffer frost damage if temperatures dip below 28 degrees.

This plant looks great cascading over raised planters or in containers and because it produces low litter, works well around pools or water features. Coral Fountain is drought tolerant but likes regular watering to look its best. Pruning is never needed except to remove dead or broken stalks or freeze damage.



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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Questions or comments? We want to hear from you! Contact us at [conserve@chandleraz.gov](mailto:conserve@chandleraz.gov)

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