



Chandler • Arizona

WaterSaver Newsletter

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May 2014

What's In Your Water Bill?

The next time you receive your water bill remember it's the City's job to make sure each person receives enough water at just the right pressure for a good shower at 7 a.m. Even if firefighters open a hydrant to battle a fire in the neighborhood at 7:02 a.m., the system must meet demands every minute of every day.

Nearly [245,000 residents](#) of Chandler share the costs of receiving, treating and delivering 56 million gallons of drinking water every day, removing it safely when it is sent down the drain or flushed down the toilet. That wastewater is purified so it can be used again on parks, golf courses, HOA common areas, etc. The City also created recharge basins and wetlands like those at [Veterans Oasis Park](#), to store treated reclaimed water underground.

When you pay your bill, you also help to build and maintain Chandler's infrastructure that includes:

- 1,230 miles of water lines to bring drinking water into homes.
- 40,000 valves the city uses to control fire hydrants and reroute water when it needs to repair or do maintenance on a water line.
- 79,500 water meters that measure water use at each home and business.
- 900 miles of underground pipes to remove wastewater from homes and businesses and transport it to treatment centers.
- 120 miles of underground pipelines to reuse 100 percent of [reclaimed wastewater](#).

Chandler residents pay for skilled staff, including chemists and technicians who must complete [13,000 tests](#) each year on Chandler's drinking water. They pay for construction workers who know how to build and fix water pipes and for the people who read their water meters, now done with technology that allows a city employee to simply drive by or near your home.

If your water bill sometimes raises your temperature, remember all that's involved in making sure you have a dependable supply of water for a shower any time of day or night.

If you have questions about your water use, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov. For questions on wastewater call 480-782-3600 or water distribution at 480-782-3700.

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Upcoming Events

May 1 - 11

[Chihuly at Desert Botanical Garden](#)

May 3

[Chandler Chihuahua Race](#)

May 10

[Science Saturday at Tumbleweed Park](#)

May 10

[Payson Wildlife Fair](#)

May 10

[Learn Your Lizards](#)

May 10 - 18

[Peach Festival](#)

May 24

[Butterfly Walk](#)

June 25

[Master Gardener Training](#)

See complete schedule at
www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

May

From the middle of May through October is considered our summer watering time. Our first 100-degree days of the season typically arrive this month, so now it's even more critical for your plants to be watered properly. These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 4-5 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 3 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 17 days
- High Water Use - once every 8 days

Tree watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 20 days
- High Water Use - once every 10 days

Shrub watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 6 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

- Desert Adapted - once every 14 days
- High Water Use - once every 6 days

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 24 days

Annuals watering - once every 3-4 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.chandlerzaz.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.

Ask A Garden Goddess



I'm overrun with crickets this year. How can I get rid of them?

Field crickets usually stay outdoors and are nearly black in color. The noisy ones you find inside or close to your home are probably the light yellowish-tan Indian House Cricket, an Asian hitchhiker that has made its home in the desert. Males chirp at night to attract females.

Safe, non-toxic solutions are right at your fingertips. Try [diatomaceous earth](#) sprinkled close to your house foundation. It causes their bodies to dehydrate which kills them. Boric acid powder can be applied in the same manner. It sticks to crawling insect bodies and when ingested acts as a stomach poison. Click here for more information on [cricket management](#).



Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandlerzaz.gov

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "You can't expect to hit the jackpot if you don't put a few nickels in the machine."

Some may think hitting the jackpot happens at the casino, but I'll bet many have a treasure growing right in your own yard.

Ever wonder how valuable a tree is? Just ask someone on a hot day in June. Everyone who's outside seeks shade at that time of year. With over 100 days of 100 + degrees each year, trees can provide a cool retreat from the sun's rays.

In addition, one tree can remove 26,000 pounds of pollutants from the air each year or the equivalent of 11,000 miles of vehicle emissions. In return they give us oxygen,

Plant of the Month

Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*)

A native of India or Pakistan, Sissoo (or Indian Rosewood) is used throughout that region for timber and fuel. After teak, it is the most important cultivated timber tree in India.

The [Sissoo](#) is a semi-evergreen tree with glossy, bright green leaves which tremble in the wind and lend a lush feel to desert landscapes. It can eventually reach 40 feet tall and 30 feet wide providing coveted shade in our urban yards. Because this tree is large, provide ample room and plant no closer than



help mitigate the heat island effect, increase property values, block noise, reduce wind, provide food, reduce soil erosion and improve outdoor living spaces.

When trees are [planted and properly maintained](#), they provide many economic, environmental, and social benefits. According to a United States Department of Energy report, strategically planted trees can reduce heating and cooling costs an average of 25 percent annually.

To find out how much your tree is worth, visit the [National Tree Benefit Calculator](#) and enter your zip code, tree species, and trunk diameter (at 4.5 feet from the ground). Give it a try!

15 feet away from buildings or fences.

Well adapted to our desert environment, Sissoo can handle granite areas, reflected heat and lawn situations. Although a fast grower if given ample water, stronger wood will be formed if irrigation is provided deeply and infrequently. Young trees need frost protection if temperatures drop to 30 degrees or below.



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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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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