



WaterSaver Newsletter

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April 2015

Gorgeous Groundcovers

Our landscapes tend to include lots of crushed granite which can radiate excessive amounts of heat, especially during the summer.

One solution is to use groundcovers to liven up these areas with color, texture and interest, or soften areas that include concrete or pavement.

A groundcover can be any plant or group of plants that is low-growing, creeping, or sprawling whose primary function is to cover the ground. Some plants only grow a foot across while others can cover an 8 ft. wide area.

- Shade-loving groundcovers are perfect for bare areas under mature trees.
- Low groundcovers are useful in small spots, tight spaces, or borders.
- Groundcovers planted in front of painted walls not only look attractive, but keep walls fresh and clean by preventing dirt from splashing onto the walls during rains.
- Frost-sensitive groundcovers may perform better planted on mounds, above low spots where cold air collects.

Top choices include [Angelita Daisy](#), [Desert Marigold](#), [Bush Morning Glory](#), [Lantana](#), [Lemon Dalea](#), [Katie Ruellia](#), [Trailing Gold Emu](#), [Damianita](#), [Golden Dyssodia](#), and [Rock Verbena](#).

Follow the link to more details on [Gorgeous Groundcovers](#) to discover choices for your landscape. Additional [tips for landscaping](#) can be found on the Water Conservation web site.

If you have questions about your landscape, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov or call 480-782-3583.

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Upcoming Events

April 9

[Yard Watering & Timer Instruction](#)

April 16

[Maximize Your Irrigation](#)

April 18, 23, 25, 26

[Guided Wildflower Walks](#)

April 25

[Earth Day at EEC](#)

April 25

[Trees Around the World](#)

May 2

[Chandler Cinco de Mayo](#)

May 2

[Family Birdwalk at EEC](#)

May 9

[Learn Your Lizards](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

April

Ask A Garden Goddess



My neighbor told me roof rats have been spotted here. Is that true?

March included everything from soaking rains to record heat. Temperatures will continue to rise, causing water needs to increase as we head towards summer.

These recommendations are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

- Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 7 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - once every 4 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

- Desert Adapted - once every 20 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 16 days
- High Water Use - once every 8 days

Groundcover and vine watering:

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

Cacti and succulent watering - once every 30 days

Annuals watering - once every 4 days

Native wildflowers - once every 7 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 water runs off your yard during the irrigation cycle, split the watering into several short cycles. This allows the water to be absorbed at each watering.

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

Roof rats have been reported all over the valley, however that doesn't mean they have actually been confirmed in Chandler by [Maricopa County Vector Control](#). Some citrus fruit damage is often blamed on roof rats when its actually due to birds. If your fruit has round dime to nickel sized holes in the rind, it's a thirsty bird like curve billed thrashers or flickers that have pecked the fruit. Secondary insects will come to feed as well.

Roof rats will chew the fruit completely hollowing out the inside leaving the rind with no trace of pulp left. The only way to confirm that roof rats are present is to trap them. Be wary of businesses promoting roof rat control if there is really no evidence to support they are in your area.

Here's a link to [Roof Rat](#) information from the University of Arizona.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "Just because it's not what you were expecting, doesn't mean it's not everything you've been waiting for".

You might expect that Americans use much more water each day than individuals in both developed and

undeveloped countries. For example, the average European uses 53 gallons, while the average Sub-Saharan citizen uses 3-5 gallons.

In Chandler, the average resident uses 128 gallons per day to flush toilets, water lawns, and wash dishes, clothes, and cars. In fact, up to 70 percent of home water is used outdoors. Nearly 14 percent of the water a typical homeowner pays for is never even used - it leaks down the drain or soaks into the soil.

April is Water Awareness Month! Visit the Arizona [Water Awareness Month](#) web site and prepare to be entertained! WAM incorporates useful resources, helpful tips, exciting events, and beautiful visuals into fun and unique ways to conserve water.

This year for Water Awareness Month (WAM), a photo competition is underway so that images can be shared with the community and inspire others to conserve water and use it more efficiently.

If you have questions about saving water in your home, HOA or business, email us at conserve@chandleraz.gov



Plant of the Month

Trailing Gold Emu (*Eremophila glabra*)

How exciting to find a new groundcover that can take full sun, reflected heat or light shade.

This Australian beauty grows only one foot tall but spreads 6 - 8 feet. Stems support bright green, 1 1/2 inch leaves and tubular bright yellow flowers appear from spring to fall and attract hummingbirds. Its fast growth rate and tolerance to cold temperatures are sure to make it a popular choice.



[Trailing Gold Emu](#) is very drought tolerant once established and likes soil with good drainage. Regular, deep irrigations twice a week in summer, tapering to once every two weeks in winter will keep it looking its best for the first couple of years.

Eremophila glabra (may also be found as *Eremophila prostrata*) needs virtually no maintenance and is a great choice near swimming pools or patio areas. Pairing it with purple flowering plants is sure to create an appealing color combination.

Look for Trailing Gold Emu at your local nurseries or plant sales.



For more landscape choices and design ideas to help you create a vibrant, attractive and 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.

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



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