



Chandler · Arizona



WaterSaver

October 2011

[Water Conservation E-News](#)

Chandler's Water Conservation Office is excited to offer landscape and irrigation tips for residents and business owners via this online newsletter. Each month we'll feature seasonal information to help you save money on your water bill, spruce up your landscaping, learn about free classes and workshops, and much more.

Receive this newsletter right in your inbox! Each edition comes packed with expert tips, design ideas, and personalized advice. Let us help you transform your yard into a landscape showplace!



Sincerely,
Water Conservaton Staff

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Fabulous Fall

Cooler temperatures are just around the corner, reminding us before long winter will be here. It's time to get your landscape in shape for the best landscaping season of the year. While year-round planting is possible here in the desert, the ideal planting time is from late September to April.

If plants have died or seem to be struggling, fall is the perfect time to replace them. This way they have the entire winter season to establish a strong root system before the heat of next summer arrives. Native or desert-adapted plants adjust easily to our soils and climate, and require less water and maintenance.

Need shade? Trees pack a one-two punch: Their shade keeps surfaces from warming up on hot days, while they act as natural evaporative coolers. Adding a single, well-placed tree to a yard has the potential to cut home air conditioning costs by 12 percent. A wise person once said "the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the next best time is now".

More information on planting and landscaping tips can be found [here](#).

Visit the [Chandler Water Conservation](#) web site or call the water conservation office at 480-782-3580.

Upcoming Events

October 4 -

[Landscaping for Color](#)

October 13 -

[Drip Irrigation](#)

[Installation](#)

October 15-16

[Desert Botanical](#)

[Garden Plant Sale](#)

October 20 -

[Sprinkler](#)

[System Design &](#)

[Maintenance](#)

October 27 -

[Yard Watering &](#)

[Timer Instruction](#)

November 3 -

[Irrigation Maintenance](#)

November 8 -

[Pruning & Maintaining](#)

[Your Landscape](#)

See complete schedule at
www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

October

Fall is here, and it's a great time to replace lost plants or install a new landscape. Soils are still warm, which encourages root establishment, but water needs are not as demanding, allowing for greater success. In fact, water needs for plants are about half as much as they were in June. Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about 2 years).

Lawn watering:

Summer grass (Bermuda) - once every 6 days

Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - 4 times per day for first 7-10 days to germinate, then once every 3 days

If trees and shrubs are on the same valve:

Desert Adapted - once every 21 days

High Water Use - once every 10 days

Tree watering:

Desert Adapted - once every 24 days

Ask A Garden Goddess



I want to grow citrus in Chandler. What varieties can I plant?

High Water Use - once every 12 days
Shrub watering:
Desert Adapted - once every 18 days
High Water Use - once every 9 days
Groundcover and vine watering:
Desert Adapted - once every 18 days
High Water Use - once every 8 days
Cacti and succulent watering - once every 28 days
Annuals watering - once every 4-5 days
Wildflower watering - once every 1-2 days to germinate, then once every 3-5 days

Remember, you can 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. Visit the interactive Web site at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com>

Bonus tip: New plantings need more frequent watering. After planting, water every 3-4 days for the first two weeks, then water once every 6-7 days for the next 3 or 4 weeks, every 7-10 days for weeks 5 & 6, and then gradually extend time between irrigations until plants are established.

The climate in the Arizona desert produces some of the best tasting citrus in the world. Hot summers and cool winters produce a much fuller flavored product than other regions. The Goddess suggests planting what tastes best to you. [Popular varieties](#) include Arizona Sweet oranges, Cara Cara navel orange, Ruby Red grapefruit, Satsuma mandarin orange, Mexican lime, and Meyer Improved lemon.

Look for trees that have their rootstocks clearly identified, are compatible with our soils and resistant to desert diseases.

Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov



Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said, "A short pencil beats a long memory".

Fall is finally here bringing cool nights and mild days - its wildflower season. I use Grandpa's advice and write this down on my calendar months in advance so I don't forget. Why? Because even though the glorious displays of wildflowers happen in spring, now is the time to start planning where to plant the seeds.

Click here to learn the steps involved in creating a vibrant splash of landscape color by using easy-care native [desert wildflowers](#). It's not hard at all. Some seeds, a rake, a little sand, and supplemental water (or help from Mother Nature in the form of rain) is all you need.



Mexican Gold Poppy

Plant of the Month

Mexican Bush Sage
(*Salvia leucantha*)

This desert-adapted, graceful, perennial shrub with arching, densely clustered, purple flowers spikes has gray-green leaves with velvety, wooly white undersides.



[Mexican Bush Sage](#) reaches about 3 feet tall and wide, and is an excellent choice for the mini-oasis and it is suitable for use as a cut flower. It prefers afternoon shade but will tolerate full sun. As with most Salvias, the leaves are aromatic and flowers attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

For more landscape choices and design ideas to help you create a vibrant, attractive, colorful low water use landscape visit the on-line edition of ["Water Wise Landscaping in Chandler"](#).



The WaterSaver newsletter is published by Chandler's Water Conservation office. 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 this information.

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

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Save!

Bring this coupon to any free City of Chandler water conservation landscaping or irrigation class or workshop to receive a free gift.

Offer Expires: November 8, 2011