



Chandler · Arizona

WaterSaver Newsletter

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July 2014

Is Your Pool Leaking?

In our dry desert climate, typical swimming pool can evaporate its equivalent water volume in one year - up to 25,000 gallons of water. Along with evaporation, you will also have water lost to 'splash out' and possibly in the backwash process.

It's also estimated up to 30 percent of all pools have a leak, wasting lots of water unnecessarily. Most leaks are a result of faulty auto refillers, plumbing problems or improper seals around fittings.

To determine if your [pool is leaking](#) or if it's just normal loss due to evaporation, use this neat trick.

- First, turn off your automatic pool refiller if you have one.
- Place a bucket of water on the top step of the pool and fill it with water to the pool's water level. A large rock or brick will keep it in place.
- Mark the water level inside the bucket.
- Mark the pool water level on the outside of the bucket.
- Wait two or three days, if the water level of the pool (outside mark) is lower than the inside mark, there is probably a leak in the pool structure or plumbing system.

Sometimes, it is necessary to drain your pool. If so, pool water must be drained into your yard or the sewer clean-out. If your home or property does not have a sewer clean-out, you must drain it slowly enough so it remains in your yard. Pools MAY NOT be drained into the street, alley, or neighboring properties. Pool water is generally safe to use on your landscape (Bermuda grass loves it). Follow this link for more information on [using pool water on your landscape](#).

If you have questions on pool leaks, contact the Water Conservation Office at conserve@chandleraz.gov or call 480-782-3583.

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Upcoming Events

July 4

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

July 5

[Wonderful Wetlands](#)

July 17

[Birds 'n' Beer](#)

July 18

[Downtown Chandler Art Walk](#)

July 18 - 19

[Camp Verde Cornfest](#)

July 19 - 20

[Peach Mania Festival](#)

July 26 - 27

[Whiskey Row Shootout](#)

August 2

[Jerome Art Walk](#)

See complete schedule at www.chandleraz.gov/water



Monthly Watering Advice

July

Our last significant rain was on March 1, 121 days ago. Watering frequencies are the same as for June unless we get some rain. Monsoon rains are localized, so a rain gauge can be helpful. If you receive at least one-half inch of rain, skip an irrigation cycle. Use the 'off' or 'rain' setting on your controller to stop the watering cycle without disturbing your programs. 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 or visit the interactive web site at www.wateruseitwisely.com.

Bonus tip: Use a coffee can or other container instead of a rain gauge as long as it has a flat bottom, vertical sides, and is deep enough so drops of water won't splash out. Stabilize the container and place in the open so trees, fences or sprinklers do not affect the amount of water that will accumulate. After a rain, simply use a ruler to measure.

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

Ask A Garden Goddess



I saw a huge black beetle last night. Are they dangerous?

It sounds like you've met a [Palo Verde Borer Beetle](#), who may resemble a roach on steroids.

The beetles are active in summer, especially at night when their flying can startle even the Garden Goddess. The adults emerge from quarter sized holes in the ground and go looking for a mate. Eggs are laid in the soil producing grubs (immature beetles) which live underground for up to three years. They feed on the roots of Mexican Palo Verde and other nonnative trees and shrubs.

Little can be done to control them. They attack stressed plants so keep yours as healthy as possible. Water deeply, don't over prune or over fertilize.



Email your question to GardenGoddess@chandleraz.gov

Water Wise Tips



Grandpa always said "you can never stop learning."

July is [Smart Irrigation Month](#)! This is a great time to learn if your landscape has a [drinking problem](#).

Did you know???

- An average Chandler homeowner uses **2/3 of their water** on landscape irrigation.
- As much as **50%** of that water goes to waste from inefficient watering methods.
- A broken sprinkler can cost you **25,000 gallons**. That's enough to fill a large swimming pool!

Plant of the Month

Sago Palm (*Cycas revoluta*)

To add a tropical or Mediterranean feel to your landscape, include the Sago palm.

Despite its common name, this is not a palm at all, but an ancient plant whose origin is included in fossil records dating 65 million years ago! They resemble ferns but are closely related to pine trees.



[Sago palms](#) are originally from Japan and have dark green, glossy finely divided palmlike leaves which grow about 3

If you're interested in a beautiful landscape that saves water, contact us. We can help with:

- Irrigation audits
- Irrigation workshops
- Drip irrigation analysis
- Soil moisture management
- Landscape workshops
- Smart irrigation controllers
- Rebates and more!



Give us a call at 480-782-3583 or email conserve@chandleraz.gov to schedule a free consultation with one of our conservation experts.

feet long. Young plants typically grow to 2-3 feet tall over several years, but may take 50 or more years to eventually reach 10' tall. They prefer shade or partial shade locations, are drought tolerant and will grow in containers and most soil types.

On rare occasions and when mature, Sago palms bloom. Male plants produce a [single large cone](#) in the center of the plant while females bear nut-like seeds.



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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Water Conservation Staff

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

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