

October 2020 Watering Reminder

It's been a difficult summer for plants. Last month, I talked about the record high temperatures. Now, looking at our [rain gauge](#) totals across the valley, many do not show any significant rain since last March (monsoon season was officially over on Sept. 30). A few areas did receive rain in late August. Thankfully, cooler overnight temps have helped many plants recover from summer's dismal rainfall and record sizzling temperatures.

As days become shorter and cooler, water needs for plants are about half as much as they were in June. If you haven't adjusted your clock in a while, now is the time to do so. Check out these [step-by-step instructions](#) to reprogram your timer to the watering schedule suggested below. If you have a [SMART controller](#), it should take care of this for you.

Fall is such a great time to plant and to sow your Sonoran Desert wildflower seeds for spring bloom.



Recommendations below are for plants that are established in the landscape (in the ground about two years).

Lawns

- Warm season grass (Bermuda) - once every 6-8 days
- Overseeded cool season grass (rye) - 4x per day for 1st 7 to 10 days to germinate, then once every 3 days

Trees & shrubs on same valve

- Desert Adapted - once every 21 days
- High Water Use - once every 10 days

Trees

- Desert Adapted - once every 24 days
- High Water Use - once every 12 days

Shrubs, groundcover & vines

- Desert Adapted - once every 18 days
- High Water Use - once every 9 days

Cacti and succulent watering

- Once every 28 days

Annuals & vegetable watering

- Once every 3-5 days (or more if you are starting seeds)

Wildflower watering

- Once every 1-2 days to germinate, then once every 7-10 days

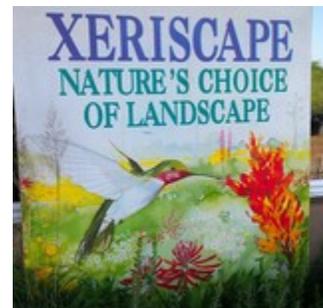
Note: These recommendations are a general guideline only and may need to be modified for your specific site conditions. Our current weather conditions may require more frequent watering.

[Landscape Watering by the Numbers](#): Don't forget our online, interactive watering guide. If you input some simple information about your landscape irrigation system, it will tell you how long to water to give your plants just the right amount with these frequencies.

+ + BONUS TIPS + +

Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the Arizona Desert

Our [online Xeriscape resource guide](#) guide has relaunched in a new and improved format and helps with planning, installation, and maintenance of Arizona water-wise landscapes. You'll also find lots of landscape photos for inspiration. It's just in time for fall planting!



Water - Plant It Wisely Fall Microsite!



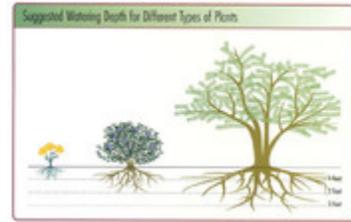
Want to create a landscape that is beautiful and sustainable? Water - Use It Wisely has the ultimate Arizona Fall landscaping and planting microsite, [Water - Plant It Wisely](#). NOTE: The site will be fully available soon - Wed, Oct 7. For now, you can find:

[Calendar of Events](#) features virtual landscape workshops being offered with topics on water harvesting, irrigation maintenance, and landscape plant selection.

[Drab to Fab Backyard Rehab](#) This 10-Part video series follows the installation of a local, dog-friendly landscape.

Adjusting Watering Frequency for Plant Type:

Different plant types (or species) will need different amounts of water to stay healthy. You will notice that our watering guidelines provides a distinction between desert-adapted and high water-use plants. A desert-adapted plant can go much longer between waterings than a high water-use plant. Examples of high-water-use plants include citrus, hibiscus, and roses. Desert-adapted plants include palo verdes, Texas sages, and penstemons.



Keep in mind that a Texas sage and hibiscus of the same size will need the same amount of water each time you water to wet the root ball. It's the frequency of watering that is different. If you have both types of plants on the same valve, you will always have to water for the most water-thirsty one. That likely means that your other plants are getting more water than needed.

Find more tips like these in our [online watering guide](#), click on the TIPS & FAQ's button at the top.



Wildflowers need to be seeded in the fall for spring bloom. Mexican and California poppies have a few Purple Owl's Clover sprinkled in above. Learn [more](#).

****Reduce your landscape water use 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 website or request a [free copy of the booklet](#).

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