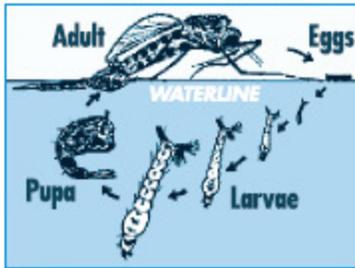


# Water 101

## The Buzz on Mosquitoes

Water 101 continued from front

All mosquitoes need to multiply in a little warm water, so eliminating standing water around your property where mosquito



Mosquito Life Cycle

larvae can develop in the most effective prevention you can take. In your yard, get rid of or store any kind of container that can hold water. Clean out your rain gutters and eliminate any puddles of water that stand for more than two days. If mosquitoes visit you anyway, remember these tips.

**Avoid Being Outside Between Dusk and Dawn** – the times when mosquitoes are most active.

**Dress Sensibly** – long sleeves, pants, and shoes help prevent bites.

**Mosquito-Proof Your Home** – check screens for holes and keep doors closed.

**Use Insect Repellents** – Repellents containing DEET are most effective, but not always recommended for children under 2 years of age.

For more details about keeping mosquitoes to a minimum this summer, visit Tucson Water's web site at

 [www.cityoftucson.org/water](http://www.cityoftucson.org/water) or contact the Pima County Health Department at 740-3191 or online at [www.pimahealth.org](http://www.pimahealth.org).

May 2005

[www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water)

# Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

## Water 101

*Water 101* is a regular column where we explore an aspect of our water system in response to questions from Tucson Water customers. This month we take a look at a problem that we see every summer in the Tucson area. If you have a question you'd like to have answered here, or if you have a suggestion for a topic, please call us at 791-4331 or email [TW\\_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us](mailto:TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us).

## The Buzz on Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes – these unwelcome warm weather visitors seem to be an annoying fact of life in southern Arizona.

However, they can also be a potential health threat, carrying several diseases



that can affect humans including West Nile Virus. Except in very rare instances, West Nile Virus does not cause serious health problems for humans, but protecting yourself and your family from mosquitoes is always a good idea.

*Water 101 continued on back*

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or email to [TW\\_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us](mailto:TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us)

## Conservation Corner

# Be Water Wise for Greater Savings

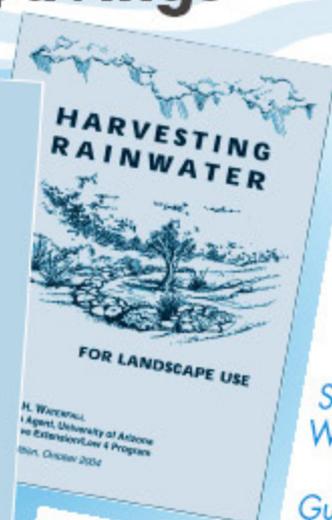
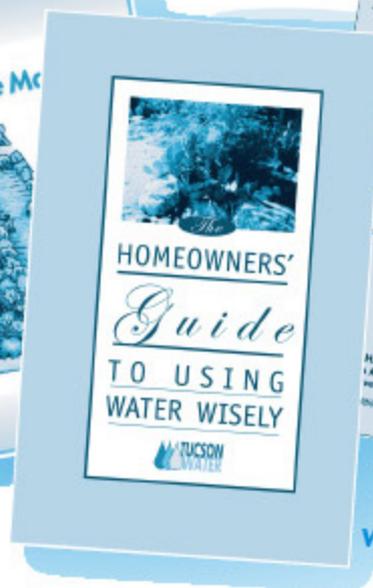
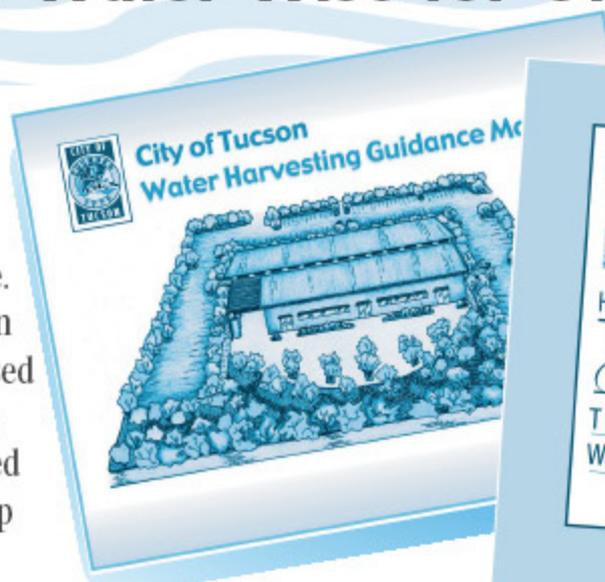
Summer is here in Tucson, and that means higher water use. A little more than half the water used by Tucson Water customers is used outside – to keep vegetation alive though the 100°+ days of summer or for recreation. To kick off the summer season, we'd like to offer some tips for outdoor watering that will help you save water and irrigate more efficiently.

### Wake Up and Water

Cooler temperatures in the earliest part of the morning help reduce evaporation loss. This is also usually the least windy time of day, so sprinkler systems will spray water more efficiently.

### Water Wisely

- ◆ If you water by hand, install a faucet timer and use a soaker hose.
- ◆ Weeds, including turf grass, compete for your plant's water so control them.
- ◆ Apply 3-4 inches of mulch under the plant canopy. Mulch retains soil moisture and discourages weeds. Do not lay plastic over the soil.
- ◆ Expand the area you water as the plant grows.



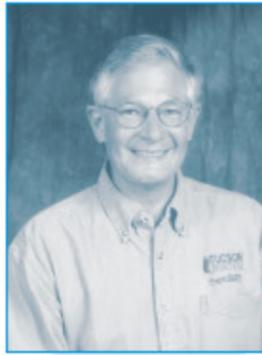
Some Water Use Guides that are available at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water).

- ◆ Once or twice a year, water twice as long as you normally do to help leach salts out of the root zone.
- ◆ Prevent runoff! Build a basin around the plant or water at a slower rate.

### Reuse the Rain

Taking advantage of rainfall to irrigate your landscape is easier than you might think. Build berms around plants, diverting runoff from rooftops and walkways to plants, and use containers to store rainwater. But don't create a place for mosquitoes to breed. Read this month's *Water 101* to learn how to keep these unwelcome visitors out of your yard.

More information about wise watering outdoors, including two brochures about water harvesting and other 'how to' guides, is available on Tucson Water's web site at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water) or call our Public Information Office at 791-4331.



# On the Water Front

Water conservation, gray water use, water harvesting. Using water wisely was a popular topic at Tucson Water's recently completed series of Town Halls. These meetings, held around the Tucson region, presented details of our *Long Range Water Plan* to customers - and water conservation is an important part of that Plan.

For decades Tucson Water customers have been among the most efficient water users in the nation, but looking years ahead, we see that we will all have to find ways to be even more efficient with water.

How best do we do that? How do we employ the latest technology in this area - hot water re-circulation systems, low flow fixtures, timed irrigation systems, and other water smart technology is more efficient than ever before. Water harvesting is another way to add to our water supply by making more effective use of our rainwater.

Education and assistance programs help a great deal, as do City ordinances that manage water use and waste.

Not only must we determine how best to augment our water conservation efforts by using both new technology and time-tested methods that are available to us, but we need to decide how this enhanced conservation effort is going to be funded.

To begin answering these many questions, Tucson Water has established a Community Water Conservation Task

Force. The Task Force is made up of a number of interested groups and individuals including developers, business owners, environmentalists, homebuilders, apartment managers, residential customers and landscape professionals.

The Task Force will meet regularly beginning this month to begin discussing and prioritizing the many conservation options available to us. We'll keep you up to date on the group's progress and recommendations.

The willingness of these many customers to volunteer their time for this important discussion is much appreciated by Tucson Water. We believe that working together we'll best be able to meet the challenges of a secure water future for our entire region and make sure we will always have enough quality water for our families and ourselves.

Dave Modeer  
Director, Tucson Water

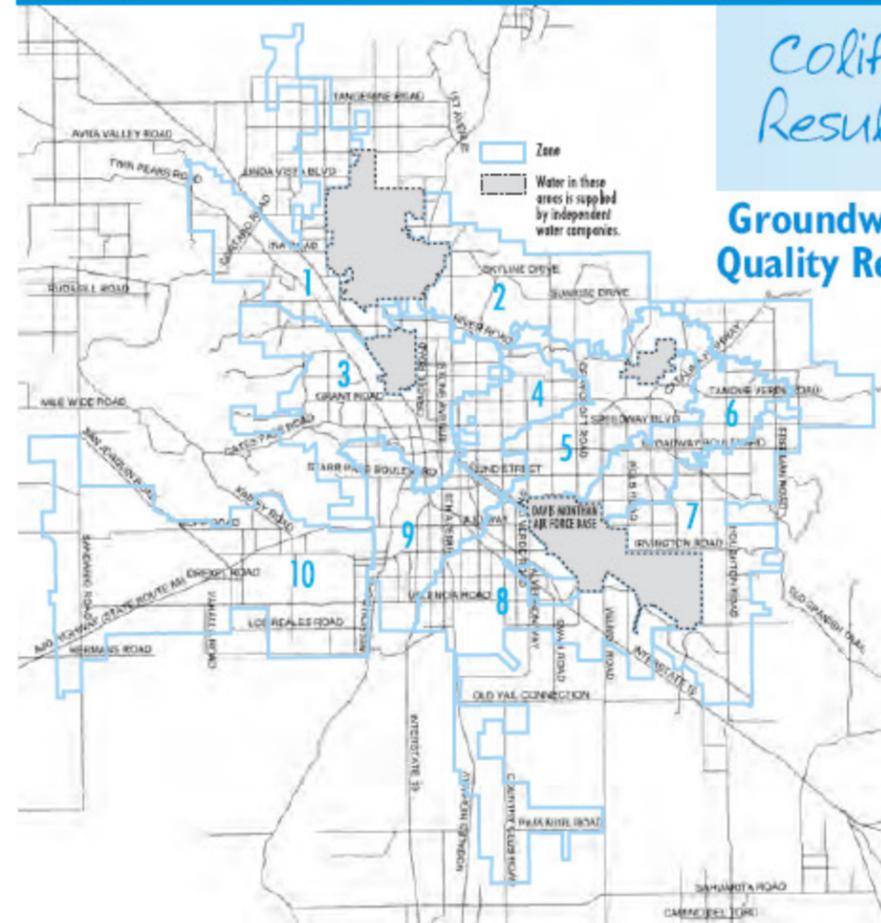
## Clearwater Quality Report - April 2005

49	Sodium (mg/L)
215.7	Mineral Content (mg/L)
103*	Hardness (mg/L)
7.73	pH (S.U.)
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.8*	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
81.1	Temp (deg F)

\* Values for March 2005

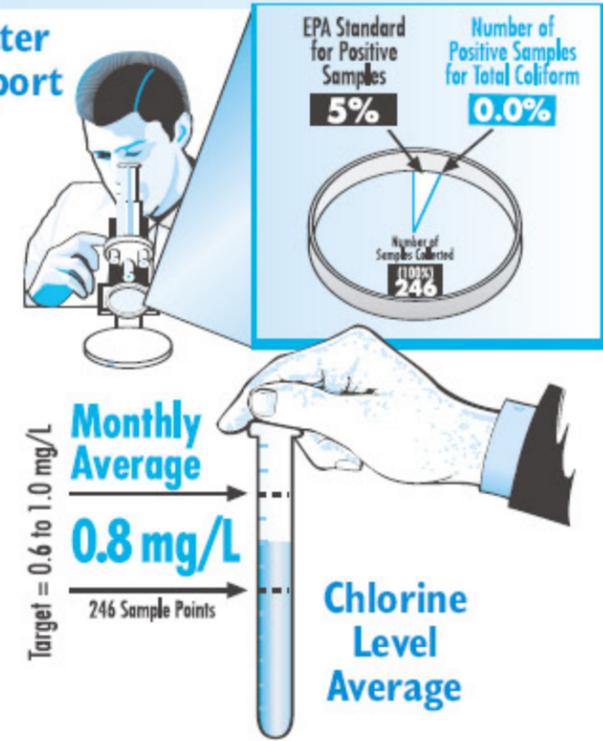
# Groundwater Quality Report - February 2005

Water Quality Zone	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L) Average	60	50	51	48	49	46	37	45	47	42	47
Range	43-91	48-52	44-56	37-53	41-52	29-51	23-52	34-52	38-52	34-52	23-91
Mineral Content (mg/L) Average	379	327	371	309	306	297	247	381	342	272	320
Range	237-575	310-354	298-430	200-337	223-338	212-335	182-316	311-439	206-467	204-438	182-575
Hardness (mg/L) Average	185	136	167	118	126	123	126	178	173	96	141
Range	139-213	131-143	131-209	82-135	109-136	112-147	112-140	119-254	79-284	76-133	76-284
pH (S.U.) Average	7.7	8.1	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.9
Range	7.3-8.2	8.0-8.2	7.6-8.2	7.7-8.1	7.6-8.2	7.8-8.2	7.6-8.2	7.3-7.9	7.3-8.1	7.4-8.1	7.3-8.2
Temperature (deg F) Average	69	72	71	75	72	72	70	73	75	74	72
Range	65-75	64-78	65-76	66-82	62-81	61-79	64-76	64-81	67-83	66-85	61-85



## Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - February 2005

### Groundwater Quality Report



"mg/L" means milligrams per liter;  
1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

With the exception of chlorine and coliform bacteria, none of the water quality parameters reported here have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency primary standards set for them. For more information about primary and secondary water quality standards, visit Tucson Water's website at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water).

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water)

Your Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Tucson Water, Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210. City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639. Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.

