

Conservation Corner

- Reduce Your Outdoor Watering Conservation as Easy as 1-2-3

Planting your yard with water conservation in mind? The “Drop Your Water Use” system makes it easy. The system was developed by the Arizona Department of Water Resources as a way for nursery customers to tell which plants have similar watering requirements.



The number of water drops on the plant's label tells you its water needs at a glance. One drop means very low water use. Two drops indicates low water use, and three drops identifies plants that require moderate watering. By grouping plants with the same number, you can simplify your watering schedule and use water more efficiently.



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Twenty Tucson nurseries and garden stores have adopted the system, so chances are you'll find it when you shop for additions to your landscaping or garden. Look for the “Drop Your Water Use” posters next time you're at the nursery. To learn more or to find out which local retailers participate, visit www.water.az.gov/dwr/ - and save water just by counting to three!



May 2006

www.tucsonaz.gov/water

Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS



Water 101

The Planning & Engineering Division Designing & Building Your Water System

It takes an enormous and complex distribution system to deliver water to all 680,000 Tucson Water customers. There also must be water available to deliver. Making sure all of this happens is the responsibility of the Planning and Engineering Division.

The 142 employees of Planning and Engineering are formed into three sections –
Water 101 continued inside

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or email to

TW_Web1@tucsonaz.gov

Water 101

The Planning & Engineering Division

Designing & Building Your Water System

Water 101 continued from front



Water Resource Management, Planning, and Engineering. The sections work as a team to manage our water resources and create the system that brings that vital resource to you.

Water Resource Management includes hydrologists, engineers and other water scientists who, among many other responsibilities, study the location and movement of our groundwater, decide where wells should be and drill them, and manage the Clearwater water recharge process. Without the work of these professionals, we would not have access to water to deliver to you.

Determining how new customers are connected to the water system and coordinating new water facilities constructed by private developers are two of the responsibilities of the Planning Division. Planning engineers use computer models of the water system to investigate different scenarios for costs and operation

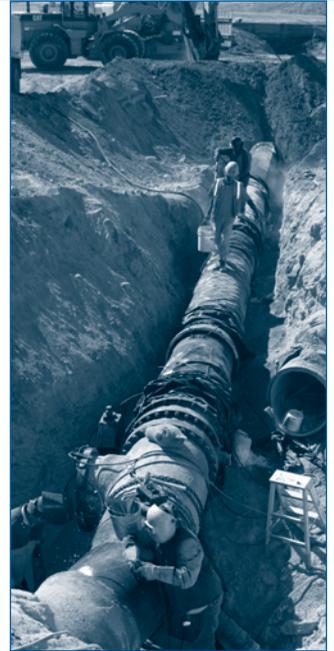


of all new water facilities. Planning staff also manage backflow compliance as well as the mapping of the water system for use by customers and other Tucson Water staff. Detailed maps are vital for Tucson Water to conduct repairs, do maintenance, and plan future improvements.

Putting the pieces together is the job of the Engineering Section. This group determines the location of and designs the reservoirs, booster stations, treatment and control systems, and water mains that move the water from one place to another. They equip wells, replace worn out water mains, and make other modifications to the water distribution system. A team of inspectors checks all water construction projects to make sure they are built correctly and meet quality standards.

Your water system is a more than one billion dollar investment. Tucson Water's Planning and Engineering Division employees are the people who plan, build, and improve it and manage the water that it brings to you.

If you have a question or topic you would like to have answered or addressed by Water 101, call 791-4331 or email TW_Web1@tucsonaz.gov.





On the Water Front

It never fails. When we have rain, you use less water and so we deliver less water to you. That didn't happen very often this past winter. In fact, the exceptionally dry and warm winter forced Tucson Water to operate groundwater wells that we normally can leave turned off during the cooler months.

Operating those wells means that, for the first time since we started delivering water from the Clearwater facility in 2001, the recovery of our water table in the central city has likely been reversed. The impact of pumping this additional groundwater is not yet known, but it's a good example of what a serious effect the on-going drought can have on Tucson.

Why does the amount of water we deliver drop when it rains? Because about 60 percent of the water we use in Tucson is used outside. When it rains, we don't need to water our plants and trees, so even though we continue to bath, wash clothes and dishes, cook and fill the drinking glasses, water use drops dramatically.

As summer approaches, temperatures climb and the dry weather continues, our landscaping needs more and more water. So this is a good time to plan ways to reduce your outdoor water use. The "Drop Your Water

Use" system we've shared with you in this newsletter can help you plan for a more water efficient yard. Applying some simple water harvesting techniques, or reusing your gray water on plants can also be beneficial. If you have an irrigation system, make sure it is operating properly and has no leaks. And don't forget our Zanjeros who can give you free water conservation advice and assistance.

I encourage you to take some of these steps and to seek more information and assistance from Tucson Water, the Arizona Department of Water Resources, your favorite nursery or home improvement store, and other sources. Using water wisely is always the Tucson thing to do, but it's critical during this drought. Please conserve all year round - because in the desert, every drop counts.

Dave Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

Clearwater Quality Report - April 2006

42**	Sodium (mg/L)
306.2	Mineral Content Average (mg/L)
102**	Hardness (mg/L)
7.5	pH (S.U.) Average
Neg*	Coliform Bacteria
0.90*	Chlorine level Average (mg/L)
79.5	Temperature Average (deg F)

* Values for March 2006
** Values for February 2006

Visit the Tucson Water Web Site at 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

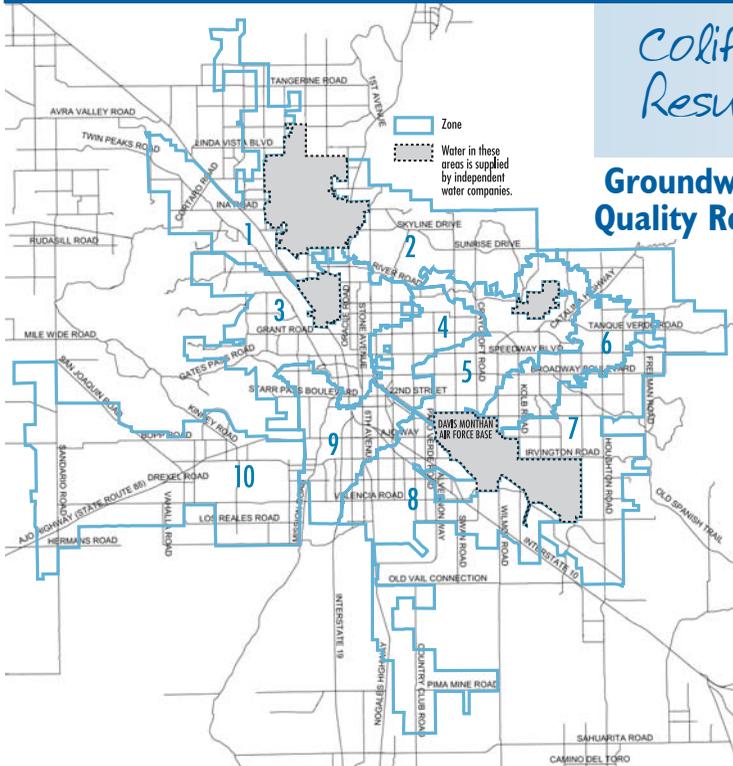
Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.



Groundwater Quality Report - February 2006

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L) 83 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	61	47	56	40	40	40	37	41	41	43	44
	Range	40-98	40-56	39-65	29-55	26-56	27-55	24-54	37-44	35-45	38-52	24-98
Mineral Content (mg/L) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	410	348	370	271	265	288	247	339	308	240	305
	Range	180-579	214-404	187-469	184-378	166-379	211-367	175-359	221-472	201-446	130-374	130-579
Hardness (mg/L) 83 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	237	158	183	123	121	131	132	185	111	103	144
	Range	210-273	114-185	103-232	84-171	71-164	101-165	109-165	138-236	73-237	75-154	71-273
pH (S.U.) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.8
	Range	7.38-1	7.78-1	7.58-1	7.68-2	7.28-1	7.08-1	7.08-2	7.47-9	7.58-1	7.78-1	7.08-2
Temperature (deg F) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	71	74	73	76	74	73	72	73	75	74	73
	Range	67-74	68-79	69-77	67-84	64-84	66-78	65-78	63-80	65-84	67-84	63-84

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - February 2006



Groundwater Quality Report



EPA Standard for Positive Samples

5%

Number of Positive Samples for Total Coliform

0.0%

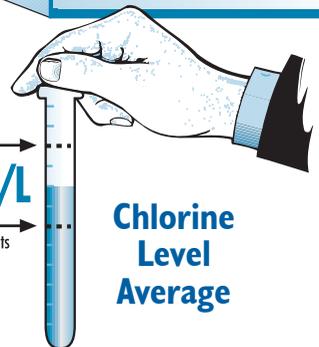


Target = 0.6 to 1.0 mg/L

Monthly Average

0.8 mg/L

247 Sample Points



Chlorine Level Average

"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.