

Be Water\$mart

Free Water\$mart Workshops Offered

Learn to be more Water\$mart at one of these workshops conducted by the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension Low 4 Program, sponsored by Tucson Water.

April 11, 2007 (Wednesday)

Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson

9:00am–12:00pm Desert Landscaping
1:00pm–3:00pm Harvesting Rainwater
for Landscape Use

April 21, 2007 (Saturday)

Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson

9:00am–12:00pm Hands-On Drip
Irrigation*
1:00pm–3:00pm Irrigation Timers

May 12, 2007 (Saturday)

Pima County Cooperative Extension
4210 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson

9:00am–12:00pm Hands-On Drip
Irrigation*
1:00pm–3:00pm Irrigation Timers

June 2, 2007 (Saturday)

Golf Links Library
9640 E. Golf Links Road, Tucson

9:00am–12:00pm Desert Landscaping
1:00pm–3:00pm Harvesting Rainwater
for Landscape Use

*To register for a workshop, call Teri at (520) 626-5161. Registration is recommended for all workshops, but is **required** for “Hands-On Drip Irrigation” classes, which have a \$10 fee. Tucson Water helps sponsor the Water\$mart series each year.

Visit <http://cals.arizona.edu/pima/smartscape/index.html> for more information.

April 2007

www.tucsonaz.gov/water

Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

Water 101

West Nile Virus Information

Take Action Against Mosquitoes

As warmer weather begins, so do the mosquito season and concerns about West Nile Virus. Tucson Water is working with the Pima County Health Department and other City departments to provide information about this issue.

West Nile is a virus that mainly infects birds, but can be transmitted to people and animals by infected mosquitoes. Only certain species of mosquitoes carry the virus and very few mosquitoes are actually infected.

The virus is not passed from person to person. Most people and animals that are infected with the virus have a mild illness or no symptoms. Those who become ill may experience symptoms including fever, headache, nausea, body aches, or a mild skin rash. In rare cases, the virus can cause a more serious condition called encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain. Persons over the

Water 101 continued inside

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or e-mail to TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us

Water 101

West Nile Virus Information

Take Action Against Mosquitoes

Water 101 continued from front

age of 50 are generally at a higher risk of serious illness caused by West Nile Virus.

To protect yourself and your family, reduce your exposure to mosquitoes and the infections they may carry by taking the following steps:

- Avoid outside activity at dawn and dusk during the mosquito season.
- Wear protective clothing (long pants and long sleeves) and apply insect repellent when outside.

- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes in them.
- Drain all standing water on private property.
- Change water in flowerpots, birdbaths and pet dishes located outdoors at least twice a week.

For more information, go to www.westnileaz.com or www.pimabealth.org/disease/westnile.html.

Conservation Corner

Save Water Outdoors this Summer

Higher temperatures are here, and that usually means more watering. No matter what kind or amount of landscaping you have, it needs special care as the summer heats up.

During the hotter months, more than half of all the water Tucson Water delivers to residents is used outside the home, on flowers, plants, shrubs, and trees. This month, Tucson Water starts a series of articles that will help keep your landscaping happy and your water use (and bill) as low as possible.

Watering Efficiently

- 1.** Don't over water. Check your plants twice a week and watch for signs of stress (leaves drooping or losing their gloss). Water when plants need it.
- 2.** Watering in the early morning (before 9:00 A.M.) will help reduce water loss due to evaporation.
- 3.** Water slowly, deeply, and infrequently to increase plants' rooting depth and increase their drought tolerance.

4. Irrigate trees and shrubs longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants. Anything newly planted will require more frequent watering until established.

5. Don't waste – use a hose shutoff nozzle when moving the hose from plant to plant.

6. To monitor soil moisture around plants or trees probe in the ground with a long screwdriver or metal rod. The probe will slide easily through wet soil and be more difficult to push when reaching dry soil. Let the soil dry out between waterings.

7. If you have an irrigation system, adjust the settings for frequency and duration of watering to fit the season and check it regularly to make sure the timer is working properly. We'll share more about irrigation systems in a future column.

Watch for more information about conserving water outside in future issues of *Your Water Connection*.



On the Water Front

In spite of a wet summer monsoon season in 2006, it did not take long for our region to return to the drought pattern that we've been experiencing for the past six years. Last fall, we asked all of our customers to review and comment on Tucson Water's Drought Preparedness and Response Plan. Your responses, along with those of other City Departments and other water providers in the Tucson region, were used to develop the Drought Plan that was submitted to the Arizona Department of Water Resources in December 2006. We appreciate your input and suggestions on the Plan.

Tucson Water delivers both local groundwater and Colorado River water transported via the Central Arizona Project, so both local and regional drought indicators are included in the Plan.

Based on these indicators, Tucson Water could make a recommendation to declare a Stage One drought response as early as April 2007. Fortunately for our region, Tucson Water customers have always been willing to step forward to enhance conservation when they are asked. It's one of the reasons why Tucson has been a national leader in this area for decades. As we face the specter of long-term drought, I'm confident that by working together we can 'weather' this climatic challenge.

Dave Modeer, Director, Tucson Water

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.



The Plan for Responding to Drought

At each successive drought stage, increasingly stringent water conservation measures will take effect. Here's an overview of those 'triggers' and the proposed actions for each successive drought stage:

Stage 1 – Water Alert

Trigger: Declaration of both local and regional (Colorado River watershed) drought.

Actions: Call for additional voluntary conservation by all customers and City departments. City Departments will conduct water-efficiency audits on their facilities.

Stage 2 – Water Warning

Trigger: Declaration of shortage on the Colorado River that does not include reductions in Tucson Water's allocation or in response to local water supply conditions.

Actions: Mandatory water efficiency audits for commercial, industrial and multi-family facilities. Water-efficiency improvements made to City facilities. City-owned fountains and other non-essential uses would be shut down.

Stage 3 – Water Emergency

Trigger: Declaration of additional shortage on the Colorado River that reduces City access to Colorado River water or in response to local water supply conditions.

Actions: Some mandatory conservation measures may be called for.

Stage 4 – Water Crisis

Trigger: Additional reductions in City access to Colorado River water or in response to local water supply conditions.

Actions: Implement some or all of the water restrictions outlined in the City's Emergency Water Conservation Ordinance (No. 8461).

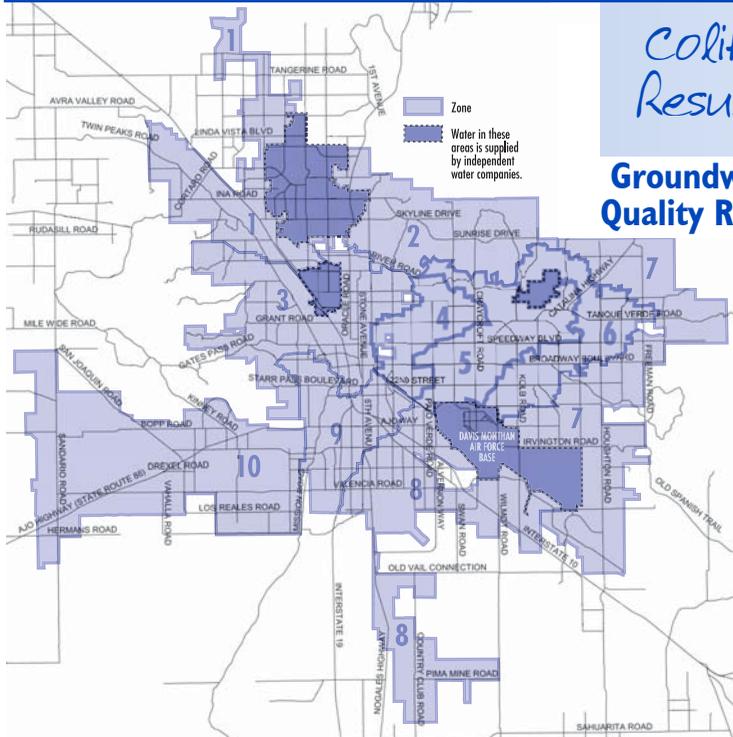
Clearwater Quality Report - February 2007

56*	Sodium (mg/L)
342.2**	Mineral Content (mg/L)
171*	Hardness (mg/L)
7.99**	pH (S.U.)
Neg	Coliform Bacteria
0.75**	Chlorine level average (mg/L)
83.6**	Temp (deg F)

* Report for January 2007; ** Report for part of March 2007

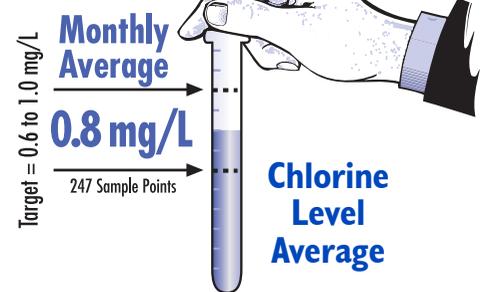
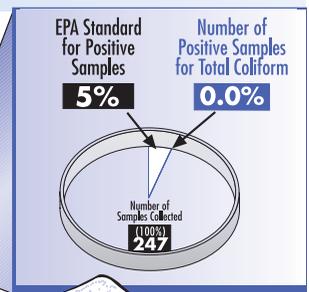
Groundwater Quality Report - February 2007

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)* 84 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	49	58	56	54	51	51	42	50	48	44	51
	Range	44-52	53-61	36-62	42-59	44-59	43-59	24-60	40-58	40-58	40-52	24-62
Mineral Content (mg/l)* 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	420	400	408	372	364	363	290	428	370	295	371
	Range	294-571	377-428	209-470	227-396	300-397	247-388	179-383	356-481	208-541	207-397	179-571
Hardness (mg/L)** 84 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	237	181	190	152	145	153	139	228	157	99	164
	Range	202-280	158-191	90-244	98-170	110-172	139-169	79-174	149-294	76-349	77-139	76-349
pH (S.U.) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	7.7	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.9
	Range	7.5-8.1	7.8-8.1	6.7-8.0	7.8-8.1	7.7-8.1	7.7-8.1	7.7-8.2	7.5-8.0	7.3-8.0	7.5-8.0	6.7-8.2
Temperature (deg F) 247 SAMPLING POINTS	Average	70	72	70	74	71	71	69	69	72	70	71
	Range	64-73	62-80	63-78	62-82	62-83	62-79	62-75	58-76	63-82	63-81	58-83



Coliform Bacteria Testing Results - February 2007

Groundwater Quality Report



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

** 17.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) = 1 grain per gallon; Therefore, the system-wide hardness average as reported for February 2007: 164 mg/L divided by 17.1 = 9.59 grains per gallon.

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 Web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/water.