



MAIL: 11228 E. Hohokam Lane, Cave Creek, AZ 85331
EMAIL: THDWID.board@gmail.com
WEB: www.TontoHillsWater.org
OFFICE PHONE: (480) 595-0128
EMERGENCIES: (480) 745-1427

BOARD: RALPH SPURGIN, Chairman
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DWID BITS **Summer 2018 Quarterly Conservation Newsletter** **Thoughts on Irrigation and Watering**

Please consider the following thoughts in our ongoing series of water conservation suggestions.

Drip System Issues:

The most common unintended water loss is from drip irrigation systems.

What can go wrong?

- Incorrect watering practices.
- Solenoid valves do not all close properly leaving water running.
- Individual drip lines crack and lose emitters causing increased water flow.

What can I do to fix the wrong?

- Follow the watering guidelines listed below.
- Check for leaks, see website for previous newsletters.
- During system operation, check the ends of each drip line and repair emitters as needed.

Landscape Watering:

When and how should landscape plants be watered?

- The best time to water is between midnight and 4AM (minimizes water evaporation).
- It is better for the watering plan to have a longer duration and shorter frequency.
- Use multiple start times. For watering a zone for two hours, water four times for 30 minutes with 60 minutes between starts. This reduces the chance of run-off.

Watering Guidelines:

For established desert-adapted plants (1 year for shrubs, 3 years for trees) use the following ***days between watering*** recommendations adopted by the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (see complete AMWUA guide at: <https://2vy9q736xwbl3dhmvk1tb0ot-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Landscape-Watering-Guide.pdf>):

Plant Type	Mar - May	May - Oct	Oct - Dec	Dec - Mar
Trees	14 - 30	7 - 21	14 - 30	30 - 60
Shrubs	14 - 30	7 - 21	14 - 30	30 - 60
Groundcover	14 - 30	7 - 21	14 - 30	30 - 60
Cacti	21 - 45	14 - 30	21 - 45	<i>If needed</i>

Note: Drip run times are typically 2 hours for each watering.