



CARLSBAD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3219 S. CANAL

CARLSBAD NM, 88220

575-628-1532 PHONE

575-885-5386 FAX

SUMMER 2017

WWW.CARLSBADSOLANDWATER.ORG

Beating Summer Heat

Summer is in full swing and temperatures are soaring! Everyone is looking for ways to beat the heat; this includes your pets and your landscape. The hot temperatures and dry conditions can be very taxing on your plants.

Watering your plants in the middle of the day can hurt more than help. If you turn the hose on a plant in soils heated by 110 degree sun all day, you'll do more harm than good. Water in these conditions becomes a super conductor, turning to scalding steam in the root zone. Levels where the soil is still cool become warmer as a result, losing the deep cool refuge that's essential to survival. Watering in desert summer heat can be the end of some plants, explaining why so many inexplicably die during heat waves.



The problem is steam scalds plant root hairs. Root hairs are microscopic conduits that transfer soil moisture into the root itself. If hot water sears them back, moisture uptake is limited until the root heals, if it ever does. Another cause of root hair damage is turning a hot hose on any plant at any time as the water will literally be boiling. Boiling water can severely damage surface roots, foliage, stems and root crowns and succulent skin, though it doesn't show right away. Too often it's revealed a few days or even weeks later when that hot water bath is long forgotten.

You may notice that your plants are wilting in the hottest part of the day. This isn't always an indicator that the plants are dry. Wilting is a method by which the plant reduces its surface area so there's less moisture demanding photosynthesis going on. Heat is also drawing moisture out of the leaf surface. In high temperatures the plant can't replace this loss from the roots fast enough.



the middle of the day, but your plants are upright and healthy the next morning, it might just be your plants utilizing a built in defense mechanism to combat the extreme temperatures and not a sign that they are under watered.

With such extreme summer heat, even our most sturdy desert species are not happy. You might notice quite a bit of yellowing in your plants. Expect yellowing, but don't be too worried about it. Succulents turn yellow when weather changes but most of the time it greens up again after the heat event passes. Cover what you can for the summer with shade cloth to aid drought recovery and prevent further sunburn that can leave

Continued on pg. 3

Water Conservation - In the Home

Carlsbad SWCD has Low-Flow showerheads for the home. These showerheads conserve water as well as improve water pressure in areas where pressure is an issue. If you are concerned with water conservation, and/or have problems with irregular water pressure, come by the District office at 3219 S. Canal and pick up one of these showerheads, they are free; however, we do limit one per household.



SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC Staff Information Assistance On -

*Certified compost facility operator
Xeric planning and irrigation use
Licensed public pesticide applicators
Vegetation identification
Small scale terrain management
Subdivision reviews*

EQUIPMENT

*Poinjar - posthole digger
Well depth measure - measure water well depths
Camel pitter seeder - disc revegetation
Gopher Tail Bounty - First Monday of month is turn in day
Water Testing - Irrigation wells, surface water, and Carlsbad Irrigation District irrigation water
Cost-Share Program for Brush Control - provides funds for a Cost-Share Vegetation Management program. The funds are limited to a 50/50 cost share match, up to \$5,000 per individual per year.*

Conservation Tips

Install water-saving devices. Use a low-flow shower head, flow restrictor or cut off valve (lets you shut off water at shower head while soaping up and shampooing without changing the faucet setting).

Scrape dishes. Do not pre-rinse. Soak pots and pans.



Instead of continuously running water, fill wash and rinse basins with water.

Use minimum amount of detergent.

If buying a new washer, purchase one with conservation features. Choose a washer with load size selector or variable water level control.

Check outdoor hoses and connectors. Repair or replace leaky parts or sections.

Use a nozzle which can be shut off or adjusted to fine spray.

When finished watering, shut off at the house instead of at nozzle to avoid leaks.

Consider a water-saving drip irrigation system which provides a slow steady supply of water to garden and shrubbery.

Water slowly and thoroughly during cool, windless hours.

Let grass grow taller in hot weather and use mulch to save moisture.

Plant native and other shrubs that require less watering.

Reuse water by watering with recycled cleaning or pool water.

Use a broom or rake instead of water to remove leaves, clippings, debris to clean driveways or walkways.



Continued from pg. 1

unattractive damage. Even though plant shades might not be the most attractive, they are a good way to nurture your garden through summer heat, especially if you have new plantings that aren't acclimated to the heat. Expect dieback, but don't be too alarmed. When the temperatures cool down and the monsoons arrive, your plants will recover and put on new growth.

To help your landscape better recover, and withstand the summer heat, double check your irrigation settings. Make sure you water early in the mornings or late in the evenings. Increasing the duration of your watering will help keep moisture in your soil and allow it to percolate deeper. This will help strengthen your plants root system by forcing them to have longer roots. If you water more frequently for shorter times, it could do more harm than you intended. Moisture will stay near the surface of the soil and your plants root system will suffer. Shallow roots find less water and are further affected by high soil temperatures

Finally, pay attention to the humidity levels on the weather forecast. When monsoon humidity and clouds keep temperatures lower, the situation changes. Soils don't reach those astronomical temperatures. Water applied does not evaporate so overwatering is very easy. These are the conditions where people kill a lot of succulents misunderstanding the symptoms of too much moisture, which can look devilishly similar to those of extreme desiccation.



By keeping an eye out for your plants and watering correctly, your landscape can survive the summer heat. While it might not be its most beautiful in the hot months of July and August, it will bounce back and be ready for you to enjoy in the cooler months when it is a pleasure to be outside.

Information for this article in part from Maureen Gilmer in DesertSun.com

Ask S. K. Worm

Can we keep the soil from washing and blowing away?

Yep is right.



And there's soil saving going on right now. People are using plants and grass to hold the soil down. Farmers have ways underway to keep their soil on the land so they can keep on growing food for us. One way is with windbreaks, rows of trees that are planted beside fields to keep the soil from blowing away. The next time you're out in the country, take a look at the farmland and see all of the ways farmers keep their soil at home.

"The conservation of natural resources is the fundamental problem. Unless we solve that problem it will avail us little to solve all others"

-Theodore Roosevelt



Noxious Weed Alert Tree-of-Heaven

Ailanthus altissima

Tree-of-Heaven can be found in areas all over Carlsbad. It is a deciduous tree that can grow up to 80' in height and 6' in diameter. The leaves are pinnately compound leaves that are 1-4 ft. in length with 10-41 leaflets. Yellowish-green flowers appear on 20 inch long terminal clusters in late spring and early summer. The fruit is an oblong, twisted samara, 1 to 1 1/2 inches long with the seed in the center, hanging in long clusters, that ripens in late summer and disperses through the winter. Tree of heaven resembles the sumacs ash, black walnut, pecan or hickories, but is easily distinguished by the glandular, notched base on each leaflet and large leaf scars on the twigs. The tree has a strong odor that smells like cashews or peanuts.

It came to the U.S. East Coast via a French Jesuit missionary who mistook it for the lacquer tree in China and sent seeds to England in the mid 1700s. It then appeared on America's shores through a Philadelphia gardener in 1784. Soon thereafter it was being sold in nurseries because it is a quick growing plant that can thrive in poor soils with little care. Tree-of-Heaven is a rapid growing tree that colonizes by root sprouts and seeds that are



spread by wind and water.

Sprouts can grow 10 to 14 feet the first year and seedlings can grow 3 to 6 feet in the first year.

Viable seeds are present on 2 to 3 year old trees. Tree-of-Heaven is shade and flood intolerant. Large dense clonal colonies can form from shoots from the original plant.



Control of Tree-of-Heaven can be difficult. Simply cutting an unwanted tree down encourages stump sprouts and root suckers to grow. Cutting the tree and treating the stump immediately after with herbicide has been an effective control method. When new shoots from either seed or roots are big enough to be grasped, they should be pulled. If new trees are sprouting from seeds being blown on the property, care should be taken to remove them as soon as possible. The entire root must be removed since broken fragments may re-sprout.

For more information about the control or identification of this invasive species, call or come by the District office.

Plant Spotlight – Gypsum Wild-Buckwheat

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recently closed the comment period to delist Gypsum Wild-Buckwheat (*Eriogonum gypsophilum*) as a threatened species throughout its range under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This plant is a rare species that has only been found in three sites, all of which are in Eddy County. It is known by the common names as Seven Rivers Hills buckwheat, and Gypsum buckwheat. It has been listed since 1981.



there are more populations of this plant in other areas of gypsum rock habitat in Texas, however much of the suitable habitat is on private land and has not been inventoried.

Conservation

The areas that this plant have been identified are all on BLM lands and protection measures have been put in place for each of the populations. Only one location of the plant had been identified in 1981 when it was federally listed, the additional confirmed sites for the plant have increased the known abundance of the species. These factors, along with the protection meas-

ures implemented by the BLM have made it possible for consideration to be removed from the endangered species list by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Description

It is a tufted, herbaceous perennial that grows from a woody base. The leaves are basal, dark green, thick, sparsely hairy beneath and grow approximately 1 – 2 cm long and 1.5 – 2.5 cm wide. The plant grows from 12 – 20cm tall and has inflorescences of small, yellow flower that bloom in head-like clusters called cymes that bloom from May through June. Typically it reproduces vegetatively, producing new stems from rhizomes. It does sometimes reproduce from seed, but due to habitat and climate conditions where it is found, germination does not occur often.

Distribution

There are three known locations of this plant, in Seven Rivers Hills north of Carlsbad and two locations south of Black River Village near Ben Slaughter Draw and Hay Hollow. It grows in areas of high gypsum concentrates including outcrops of gypsum rock and areas of gypsum soils. It is possible that



CONSERVATION WORD SEARCH

I	S	L	O	D	S	H	N	T	E	B	R	E	H
E	R	G	V	C	L	O	N	U	H	C	V	R	M
Y	M	F	A	C	M	O	T	P	M	Y	S	E	F
E	W	L	L	S	I	N	I	E	R	T	K	U	
V	D	N	V	I	V	T	O	G	U	H	I	C	T
G	R	T	E	N	T	A	I	C	X	Q	E	U	S
I	S	E	T	I	W	I	N	D	L	E	S	S	C
A	F	O	T	C	T	N	O	I	D	Y	R	O	A
L	V	E	H	S	M	R	E	T	Z	H	A	N	M
R	O	D	R	B	U	C	K	W	H	E	A	T	W
S	C	A	E	N	S	L	A	Y	N	O	D	E	A
Z	S	R	A	E	P	H	C	A	M	P	U	S	T
W	S	H	D	I	Y	A	M	R	Y	R	M	E	Y
T	Q	U	O	B	G	J	O	G	O	D	P	A	R

GALVANIZED, BUCKWHEAT, CLUSTER, SYMPTOM, WINDLESS, THREAD, CAMPUS, PAYMENT, CLINIC, SCALD, MOSQUITO, GYPSUM, SUCKER, VALVE

170 GALLON TROUGH FOR RAINWATER CONTAINMENT

University of Arizona Water Wise Program www.ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise

10/09

This 6' x 2' x 2' water trough holds approximately 170 gallons (more than three 55 gallon barrels) and takes up less space, and is very easily constructed. It must be covered to reduce evaporation, but the cover provides a usable space. The cover is split so it can be opened for easy access and there is a hose-thread outlet on the bottom of the tank for a hose.

Materials:

- Galvanized trough: Size: 6'x2'x2'
Costs about \$100. Available at feed stores and home improvement stores.
- Plywood for outdoor use (both sides) 8' x 4' x ¾". About \$20.
- Garden Hose Shut-off fitting
- Caulk
- Window screen: approx. 6" x 6"
- Concrete blocks – 3 minimum
- Exterior paint
- Paint brush, roller etc.
- Mosquito control: "Mosquito Dunks" or similar product (widely available in stores)

Overflow Fittings (suggested, can be modified):

PVC or ABS plastic:

- 1 1-½" 90-degree threaded male/slip female fitting
 - 2 1-½" 90-degree female/female slip fittings
- Approx. 5' length of 1-½" pipe
 - Threaded metal 1-½" ring (found in electrical parts department)

Tools:

- 1-½" hole saw or smaller drill bit
- Power drill
- Saw (for wood)
- Jigsaw
- Staple gun
- Metal file (if using a small drill bit)
- Hacksaw (for plastic pipe)

The information given herein is supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension is implied.



Overflow



Directions:

Buying materials: When purchasing plywood for the lid, ask to have it cut 28" wide by 74" long (you can do it yourself but it is easier to have it done for you). You will have a total of three pieces. The smallest piece is scrap, the second largest piece is the tank platform and the largest is the tank lid.

Cutting the wood: If you want, round or shape the lid corners. Use the jigsaw to cut the downspout entry hole in the lid. Cut across the lid approximately 18" from the non-downspout entry end to make the part to lift up for water access.

Paint: Paint both sides of the two pieces of plywood with exterior paint. Several coats are necessary if the tank will be exposed to the elements.

Tank platform: Put the smaller plywood piece on blocks and place tank.

Cutting the metal for the overflow hole: Near the top of the tank, trace around the female end of the 1-½" 90-degree fitting. Cut out the hole with a hole saw, or with a drill make multiple small holes around the hole circumference and punch it out. File down sharp edges – be careful!

Overflow: Slip the male (threaded) end of the 1-½" 90-degree fitting through the tank hole and secure with the metal ring. Caulk around the hole to seal (a tight seal isn't necessary). Cut 1-½" pipe to correct length and assemble according to the pictures. Gluing is not necessary. Direct overflow away from tank base and to a plant.

Downspout entry: Staple or fit window screen over the hole. This will prevent animals and debris from entering the tank.

Hose outlet fitting: Screw in garden hose shut-off fitting on outlet.

Mosquitoes: Use mosquito control in the tank as the lid is not tight fitting.

New Mexico State University Ag Days Degree

Earn your Ag Days Degree from NMSU Aug. 2 to 4

Posted: 05 Jul 2017 01:14 PM PDT

By: Kristie Garcia, 575-646-4211, kmgarcia@nmsu.edu CONTACT: Marcy Ward, 575-646-5947, maward@nmsu.edu Perhaps you want to brush up on your knowledge of cattle anatomy or fire ecology. Maybe you could use a lesson in saddle fitting or plant identification. Learn about all these topics and more at New Mexico State University's Ag Days Degree program Wednesday, Aug. 2, to Friday, Aug. 4. The NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences will host the three-day program on the Las Cruces campus. The program is open to the public. "This is an opportunity for people to come back to school, refresh their knowledge and learn more about various topics," said Marcy Ward, NMSU Extension Livestock Specialist. "Ag Days starts with a horsemanship clinic with nationally known instructor Curt Pate, and it ends with hands-on lessons at the NMSU Campus Farm."



Check-in for the Ag Days Degree program is at 11 a.m. Aug. 2 at the NMSU Livestock Judging Pavilion. A separate, pre-session clinic with Curt Pate is from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. the same day at the NMSU Horse Farm. The Ag Days Degree program officially begins at 1 p.m. with a stockmanship presentation by Pate, and the day concludes with a cookout for all attendees. On Aug. 3, participants may choose from a wide range of animal science or natural resources courses at Knox Hall. Ag Days Degree wraps up with hands-on demonstrations at the NMSU Campus Farm Aug. 4. The early registration fee is \$60, and the deadline is Tuesday, Aug. 1. Day-of registration is \$70. The fee for the Curt Pate Horsemanship for Stockmanship Clinic is \$50 for riders and \$10 to audit. Space is limited to 10 riders. There is no charge for the Curt Pate clinic for participants under age 18 who are auditing the course. Please visit nmsu.edu to register. For more information, please contact Ward at 575-646-5947 or maward@nmsu.edu. - 30 - Follow NMSU News on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/nmsunews> Follow NMSU News on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NMSUNews>

New Mexico State Forestry Conservation Seedling Sale

Ordering for seedlings from the NM Forestry Division Conservation seedling program for Fall 2017 begins July 10, 2017 and orders will be accepted through October 6, 2017. Distribution of seedlings begins September 12, 2017 and ends on October 13, 2017. You may order on-line at www.nmforestry.com or by mailing in an order form with payment (order forms can be downloaded and printed from the website). We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover for on-line orders and check for mail orders. Over 59,000 seedlings are available for purchase through the Fall 2017 Conservation Seedling Program. There are over 50 species available for the Fall 2017 Distribution. NM Forestry Division only sells containerized stock in the fall and will have bare root stock available during the Spring 2018 distribution. If there is containerized stock remaining at the end of fall distribution it will be available in the spring. Please do not wait until spring to order containerized stock if there are particular species that you want because if it sells out in the fall it will be another year before it is available again. Ordering for spring distribution will begin the first Monday of December.



Carlsbad Soil & Water Conservation District
3219 S Canal
Carlsbad NM 88220

NON PROFIT
 ORG.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 88220
 MSC
 PERMIT 100

Remember: The SWCD meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm at 3219 S Canal, on the Pecos Hwy. Please join us!



Office numbers are:
 575-628-1532; phone
 575-885-5386; fax
 swcd@carlsbadsoilandwater.org; email

Our district board meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm. Meetings are held at 3219 S Canal in the district building.

The current Board of Supervisors are:
 Nathan Jurva, Chair
 Kristin Pope, Vice Chair
 Jim Carr, Secretary/Treasurer
 Lupe Carrasco, Member
 Charles Goodwin, Member
 Henry Vasquez, Member
 Fred Beard, Member
 District Employees:
 Judy Bock, District Manager
 Judith McCollum, Information & Education