



High Desert Gardening

June 2022

Time to Reset Your Irrigation Controller Program for Summer

Sharon M. Douglas

Summer is almost here bringing the hottest months for Albuquerque—warmer temperatures and longer days of intense sunshine. June is the time to reset your irrigation controller program to meet the increased needs of your landscape plants for water for the summer. This year things are exacerbated by the county being in extreme drought conditions. As you read the chart (Figure 1), note the frequency and depth of watering listed for different types of plants. For example, flowering plants should be watered 2 times per week to a depth of 12 inches. This is the schedule recommended by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority for June-August for our area.

Since water needs for plants are at their highest during the summer, it is a good idea to recheck your drip irrigation system:

- Check all emitters to make certain they are working and are watering the ground around the plants, not nearby rocks or concrete.
- Inspect emitter nozzles—this is best done after an irrigation cycle by looking for wet zones around plants. Unclog or replace nozzles that aren't working correctly.

WATER BY THE SEASONS		
SUMMER WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS		
(JUNE - AUGUST) FOR GREATER ALBUQUERQUE		
Plant Type	How Often?	How Deep?
TREES	1 TIME PER WEEK	24" INCHES
SHRUBS	1 TIME PER WEEK	18" INCHES
FLOWERING PLANTS	2 TIMES PER WEEK	12" INCHES
DESERT ACCENTS	2 TIMES PER MONTH	12" INCHES
GROUND COVER	1 TIME PER WEEK	8" INCHES
GRASS: TURF (COOL SEASON)	3-5 TIMES PER WEEK	6 INCHES
GRASS: TURF (WARM SEASON)	2-3 TIMES PER WEEK	12" INCHES
GRASS: ORNAMENTAL	1-2 TIMES PER WEEK	18" INCHES
VINES	1 TIME PER WEEK	12" INCHES

▲ MONTHLY ▲ WEEKLY

Figure 1. Summer watering recommendations. From the 505Outside website: <https://www.505outside.com/watering-tips-and-recommendation-chart/>

- If plants have grown since the drip system was installed, move emitter nozzles out away from the stem/trunk and to the drip line of the plant. This helps to encourage root development into the planting site. Depending on the size of the plant/tree, you

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might want to consider adding more drip lines and emitters.

- Many Desert Accent plants that have been in the ground for three years or longer may no longer need supplemental drip irrigation, so you can start to plug some emitters—this will help save water. It is a good idea to plug one or two emitters at a time to gradually wean them off supplemental water.

Update on the Geographic Information System (GIS) Project for Mirehaven

Sharon M. Douglas

The LTC's QGIS **Plants and Utilities** projects are progressing. For the **Plants Project**, ~1,200 trees have been entered into QGIS.

- Phase 2: all trees have been mapped and entered into QGIS and ground-truthed.
- JMA: trees for 7 large parcels of JMA have been mapped and entered into QGIS.
- Amenity Center: all trees have been mapped and entered into QGIS.
- Phase 1: trees for 28 parcels have been mapped and entered into QGIS (~³/₄ of Phase 1).

Shrubs/Perennials/Grasses and Desert Accents for Phase 2 are now starting to be entered into QGIS.

The LTC believes this project will benefit the community in many ways by providing basic information about the common area landscape and basic infrastructure, especially after the transition from a Pulte-directed HOA. We welcome any Mirehaven resident volunteers who want to assist with this ambitious community project in any way. We are looking for people with an interest,

but not necessarily any expertise, since LTC members can provide training workshops and mentoring. We need help with mapping trees and plants and their associated drip emitters, but if you are not comfortable with trees or plants, we also need assistance with mapping dog pots, benches, trash cans, photocells, irrigation control boxes and valves, and other infrastructural items. We also welcome volunteers to “ground-truth” what has been entered into the QGIS database using printed maps that we will provide. Please contact: smdouglas54@comcast.net or dwm landscapetrails@gmail.com for more information.

Educational Resources and Opportunities

Xeric Garden Club of Albuquerque

<https://xericgardenclub.org/>

Saturday, June 4, 2022: 10-11am

Docent led tour of Xeric's Certified Wildlife Habitat Garden

Bringing Nature Home, docent Kathy Burnett

Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Boulevard NE. Free

Saturday, June 11, 2022: Tour of Jenison Klinger Garden

“Our house lot elevation varies from more than 10' from the top of the property to the bottom, and because of this, created small vignettes of plants and rocks to connect the larger spaces at the top of the yard to the bottom of the yard. In essence, we created rooms of different plants to make the transition. The main entry is the patio area that features such things as a Subaru clutch plate and a large art installation of a 1950 Chevy truck grill with trellises attached to the sides of the grill and metal ceiling tiles attached at the bottom of the grill. At the

Parade of Gardens, a gentleman asked me where he could buy the items to make an art installation like mine, and I said that it took 50 years of collecting junk. Throughout the yard, you will find more metal objects of one sort or the other.”

Albuquerque Garden Center

<https://www.albuquerquegardencenter.org/>

Sunday, June 26, 2022: 1-4pm

Daylily Show & Sale sponsored by the Albuquerque Daylily Society

NM State University Ready, Set, Grow Webinars

<https://aces.nmsu.edu/desertblooms/ready-set-grow.html>

June 15, 2022, 3pm– “Keep It Cool: Shading Your Veggies” with Dr. Stephanie Walker, NMSU Extension Vegetable Specialist

Albuquerque Area Extension Master Gardeners Hotline

<https://abqmastergardeners.org/newsmainmenu/master-gardener-hotline-2022>

Do you have a question about gardening, xeriscaping, trees, flowers, or maybe your lawn? Call the Master Gardener Hotline to get an answer at (505) 292-7144 from 11AM - 2PM; or at (505) 243-1386 from 9AM to 12PM and 12:30-3:30PM. The Master Gardener Hotline is available on weekdays (closed on holidays), from March 1 through October 28.

Either number will hook you up to expert advice from Master Gardeners. You can also call the Hotline at (505) 243-1386 and arrange for an in-person consult at the Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service Office located at 1510 Menaul

Boulevard Extension NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs State Fair Flower Show

<https://abqmastergardeners.org/newsmainmenu/state-fair-flowershow-public>

The State Fair Flower Show is the largest flower show in New Mexico and is sponsored by the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs (CAGC). **Anyone can enter**—you can **proudly exhibit your vegetables, flowers, or herbs**. It is fun not only entering but seeing what your fellow gardeners have entered.

If you have not exhibited before don't worry—the CAGC will have someone to help you. If you have a question about the schedule or other aspects of the show, please contact Mary Noskin, Chairperson (mnoskin@aol.com).

Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority -- Free Personal Consultations

ABCWUA is now offering FREE personalized consultations ([via email](#)) on topics related to sustainable, desert-friendly landscaping including the following topics:

- Plant identification and recommendations
- Planting and irrigating edible landscapes, including vegetable gardens
- The best way to water your trees (new or mature)
- Plant health
- Converting from turf to xeriscape
- Irrigation scheduling and start-up
- Maintaining and repairing broken irrigation systems
- Drip irrigation systems
- Landscape design strategies
- Rainwater harvesting

Just email them at AskAnExpert@abcwua.org and they will do their best to help you find earth-friendly answers to your landscape and irrigation questions.

Do you have comments or questions about landscaping in common areas of our community? We would also be happy to hear your ideas for helping the LTC improve educational programs and communication within the community.

The Landscaping and Trails Committee has a new, direct email:

dwm landscapetrails@gmail.com

