



# Newsletter

## Landscaping and Trails Committee

### High Desert Gardening

January 2021

Many of us, new to high desert gardening, are trying to learn strategies that will work best for building beautiful, water efficient gardens. As we learn, the Landscaping and Trails Committee will share information and resources monthly to help answer questions.

#### Irrigation Maintenance Checklist for the Greater Albuquerque Area

With drought conditions predicted to continue for the foreseeable future, we're likely to water more often this spring and summer. Make every drop count – and keep us on track to meet our conservation goals – by performing routine maintenance to maximize your sprinkler system's efficiency.

Winter watering schedule:

WATER BY THE SEASONS WINTER WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS (DECEMBER THRU FEBRUARY) FOR GREATER ALBUQUERQUE		
Plant Type	How Often?	How Deep?
TREES	1 TIME PER MONTH	24" INCHES
SHRUBS	1 TIME PER MONTH	18" INCHES
FLOWERING PLANTS	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES
DESERT ACCENTS	NONE	12" INCHES
GROUND COVER	1 TIME PER MONTH	6" INCHES
GRASS: TURF (COOL SEASONS)	2 TIMES PER MONTH	6" INCHES
GRASS: TURF (WARM SEASONS)	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES
GRASS: ORNAMENTAL	1 TIME PER MONTH	18" INCHES
VINES	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES

MONTHLY   
 WEEKLY

From: 505outside.com

#### Spring:

- As the watering season gets underway, check your irrigation system for leaks and clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads and emitters. An outdated irrigation system can waste time, water, and money. Consider installing a new WaterSense-labeled, “smart” irrigation controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling (rebates available: <https://www.505outside.com/residential-irrigation-efficiencyrebates/>).
- Set the controller for watering frequency, start times, and duration per zone per program.
- Replace the back-up battery in the controller.
- Test the manual shut-off or isolation valve.
- Check the water pressure in each irrigation zone.
- Check and clean filters, wherever they are in the system.
- Adjust the rotor arc or spray pattern to eliminate water waste.
- Test heads to make sure they are delivering consistently and efficiently.
- Inspect all drip emitters (look for wet zones after running a complete cycle).
- Unclog or replace any that are malfunctioning.

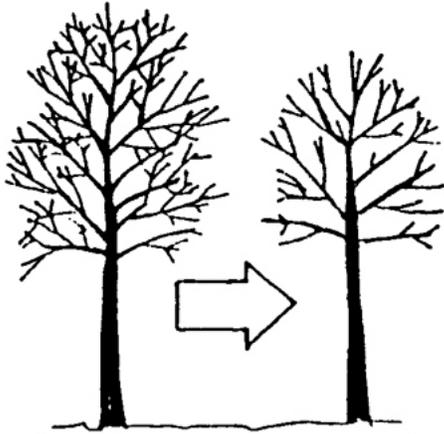
Website for more information:  
505outside.com

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### Pruning Questions?

Check out this site on pruning suggestions from the New Mexico State University Extension service at:

[https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_h/H156/welcome.html](https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/H156/welcome.html). The author, Curtis W. Smith, Extension Horticulture Specialist, answers questions about when and how to prune with clear diagrams that explain the process.



[https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_h/H156/welcome.html](https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/H156/welcome.html)

### More Questions?

Send gardening questions to Southwest Yard & Garden, Attn: Dr. Marisa Thompson at [desertblooms@nmsu.edu](mailto:desertblooms@nmsu.edu) or at Desert Blooms - Facebook. Please include your county of residence with your question!

### Resources:

- [505outside.com](http://505outside.com) is an informative website moderated by experts from the Albuquerque Bernalillo Water Utility Authority. They share information about Xeriscape Landscaping including information on water efficient irrigation, pruning, and the best drought-tolerant plants.
- Ask an expert email question channel through the ABQ water authority [askanexpert@abcwua.org](mailto:askanexpert@abcwua.org).
- Anyone can ask plant or irrigation questions to this email address.
- Sign up for the Monthly 505 Newsletter which covers topics on desert friendly

practices, maintenance, irrigation principals, and seasonal tips. Easy sign up at [505outside.com](http://505outside.com) (Bottom of home page)

[https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\\_h/H156/welcome.html](https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h/H156/welcome.html)

### Recommended Book:

New Mexico Gardener's Guide by Judith Phillips

