

TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2022

**JULY 2022 Residential Gallons Per Capita
Water Use: 67.26**

Note: Water savings data reflects water use three months in the past. Also, "gallons per capita" is the standard of "measure" for tracking water conservation efforts. The State will determine how much water per person per day will be targeted soon.

Keep saving, Joshua Tree!



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
To provide, protect, and maintain
Joshua Tree's water - our vital
community resource.

□ **You don't know it's true worth...
until it's gone--SAVE WATER!** □

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- Upcoming Events and Meeting
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Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Regular Board of Directors meetings:

- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 5:30PM
- Wednesday, Oct. 19, *Cancelled*

Special Board of Directors meeting:

- Wednesday, Oct. 12, 9AM



OCTOBER WATER \$AVING TIP

Fall is famous for being the season of falling leaves and blowing sand. As tempting as it is to grab a hose to clean off walkways and driveways, be mindful that we're in a drought and this use of tap water is illegal! So, use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, sidewalks, and patios.

THE WATER WISE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN IS NOW OPEN!

Virtual/ZOOM, or in person

Desert Edible Gardening Course:

- Wednesday/Thursday, Oct. 4/6 (2 evening course), 6-8PM *Virtual/ZOOM*

Docent/Volunteer Meeting:

- Tuesday, Oct. 11, 5-6PM in JBWD's Demonstration Garden

Native Plant Cuttings Class:

- Tuesday, Oct. 18, 6-8PM *Virtual/ZOOM*

Hospitality Industry Meeting:

- Thursday, Oct. 20, 6:30-7PM *Virtual/ZOOM*

For Agendas, Zoom links, and other calendar items visit: www.jbwd.com



Come experience the splendor of autumn in the desert by taking a walk-about-- around and through-- our five themed mini-gardens: Native and Wildlife Garden, Desert Ranch Garden, Mediterranean Garden, Thornless Garden, and Rock-Sloped Garden.

Free Docent-led tours are also available for all ages and gardening interests, as well as club and school field trip learning encounters. To learn more, contact **Kathleen** for information or an appointment.

Located at the District Office, the garden gates are open to the general public during regular business hours beginning October 3, 2022.

HOW TO PROTECT OUR GROUND WATER:
HABIT #1: Safely dispose of medications at home...

Follow these simple steps to dispose of medicines in the household trash

MIX

Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) **with an unpalatable substance** such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds;



PLACE

Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;



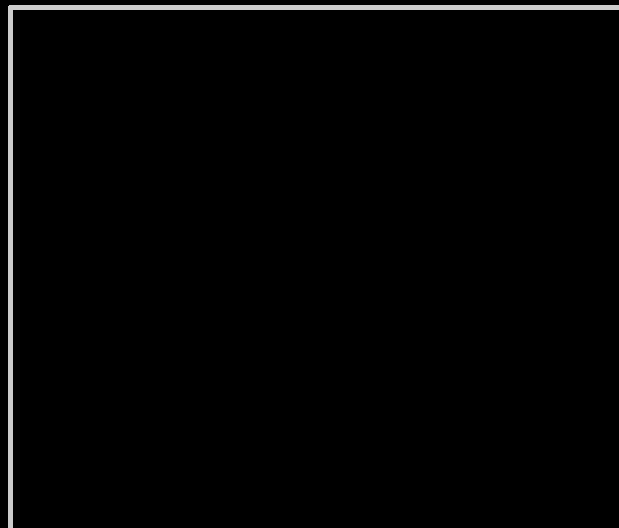
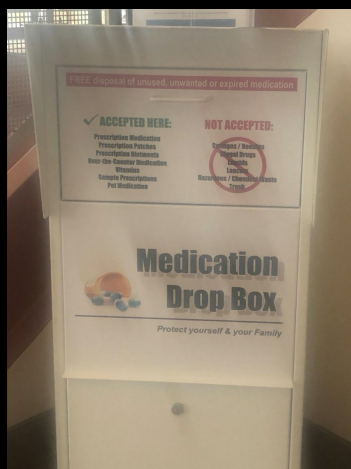
THROW

Throw the container in your household trash;



SCRATCH OUT

Scratch out **all personal information** on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or empty medicine packaging to make it unreadable, then dispose of the container.



HABIT #2:

**Deposit your medications
at a free collection site...**

Located at:

**San Bernardino County
Government Center**

**63665 S. 29 Palms Hwy., Joshua
Tree** (access via White Feather Rd)

Open Mon.-Fri, 8Am-5PM (except
holidays)

They accept:

- Prescription medications
- patches
- ointments/creams
- pet drugs
- prescription samples
- over-the-counter drugs
- vitamins

They DO NOT accept:

- Syringes
- needles
- illegal drugs
- liquids
- lancets
- hazardous waste
- chemical waste
- trash in these Drop Boxes

HABIT #4:

**Free Electronic Waste
Disposal...**

Old computers, monitors, TVs, copiers,
printers, cell phones and similar
electronic devices are often made with
certain polluting chemicals that can leach
into our soil and ground water).

Dispose of them at our local San
Bernardino County Dump
site's designated on site location.

Or, you can take them to Burrtec Waste
Management (call for more
information). Find them at:

4878 Newton Road Yucca Valley, CA
92284 Voice: **760-340-2113**
customerserviceyv@burrtecdesert.com



HABIT #3:

**Utilize the free Household
Hazardous Waste Program
every month...**

3rd Saturday * 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

West of the Transportation/Flood
Control Building
62499 29 Palms Highway
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

They Accept...

- Antifreeze
- Auto & Household Batteries
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Home-Generated
Sharps/Needles in approved
container
- Household Cleaners
- Medications – separate liquids
from solids (excluding controlled
substances)
- Motor Oil/Used Filters
- Paint Products
- Pesticides & Fertilizers
- Sharps and Needles

They Do NOT Accept...

- Asbestos
- Business/Commercial Wastes
- E-Waste (Contact Burrtec)
- Explosives
- Medical Wastes other than
sharps
- Radioactive Wastes
- Reactives
- Tire, Appliances, Furniture, Air
Conditioner, etc.
- Wastes from foreclosed
properties

- Wastes from non-profit organizations

Note:

The efficient Household Hazardous Waste staff does the unloading for you while you remain in your vehicle!



HABIT #5: Maintain a healthy septic system...

What goes down the drain matters! From fats, oils and grease to medications and chemicals--none of these make for a healthy septic system: be it your leach fields and /or septic tank combined! To learn more, go to: [Proper Septic System Care](#).

NATURE SCAPES LANDSCAPE CONTEST

This is a native & water wise landscape contest, not a photo contest. Cell phone quality works!

WHO Can Participate?

1. Hosted by Joshua Basin Water District, all Morongo Basin residents are invited to enter.
2. Entrants must be 18 years or older.
3. Entrants must reside at the property of the submitted photo, and provide their name, physical address, and phone number.
4. Only one photo per residence/entrant may be submitted.*

WHAT Type of Nature Scapes?

1. Submitted photo must show only native or water wise plants in the photo "scene".
2. All plants must be identified by common market name or botanical names in a separate list accompanying the photo.
3. Statues, boulders/rocks, wildlife water sources, benches and/or "garden art" items are allowed in the Nature Scape photo.

WHEN Are The Deadlines?

1. Entries must be sent by email to: kjradnich@gmail.com before Saturday, December 31, 2022.
2. Email submissions must say, "Nature Scape Photo" in the email subject line.
3. Fall is the perfect season to plant native plants...so if you haven't started a native plant/water wise garden, here's your chance to beautify your property while investing in low-water use landscape!

WINNERS Win What When?

1. Winners will be announced in our February Tier Drop Newsletter (all entrants will be added to the E-newsletter mail-out list for notification).
2. Three top entries will win a conservation bucket (\$50 value of goodies) and free native plant seedlings (three for 1st place, two for 2nd place, and one for 3rd place).
3. Awards will be given at JBWD's March Native plant sale: March 26, 2023.

** Finalists agree to a personal visit of their Nature Scape for a quality photo capturing and promotion of their Nature Scape in the March, 2023 Tier Drop Newsletter.*



Desert Edible Gardening



Native Plant Cuttings



Winterizing to Save Water

Course--Free!

OCTOBER 4-5, 2022 6-8PM
[Desert Edible Gardening](#)

This 2-evening, 4 hour course (Tuesday and Thursday) is specially designed just for gardening in our desert -- addressing common and uncommon issues that challenge most us. It is comprehensive and interactive while still learning on-line via ZOOM. Click on the above link to learn more!

Propagation Class--Free!

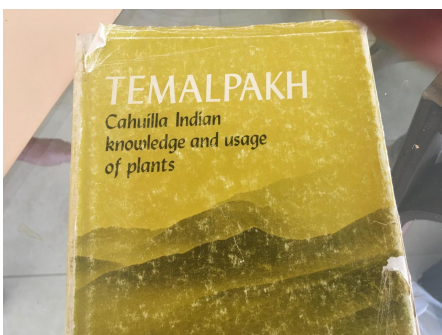
OCTOBER 18, 2022 6-8PM
[Cuttings Propagation of Native Plants](#)

This one evening class (Tuesday) jump starts the seed growing process with some of our local native plants by using the method known as "cuttings." This method helps to save water, so check out the link above to join this ZOOM class!

Class--Free!

NOVEMBER 15, 2022 6-8PM
[Winterizing to Save Water](#)

Don't let a surprise late fall or winter freeze ruin your water lines! As pipes age, they weaken, and finally burst from freezing--costing you \$\$ in property repairs, water damage, and a higher water bill. It's cheap and easy to "winterize"--we'll show you how in this on-line ZOOM class. Details are in the link found above.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Good news! If you couldn't RSVP to attend our August new and returning volunteer / Docent meeting--*take heart!* We had to postpone the gathering session in our Water Wise Demonstration Garden due to triple-digit temperatures that day.

The new training session is set for **October 11, 5-6PM in the garden** (fingers crossed for good weather) --please bring a folding chair if possible.

We'll be highlighting some of our garden's native plants that early settlers and Native Americans depended on for food, with insights on how they prepared it.

To join in this free training session please RSVP to **Kathleen** with your name and phone number (just in case we get weather at the last minute).

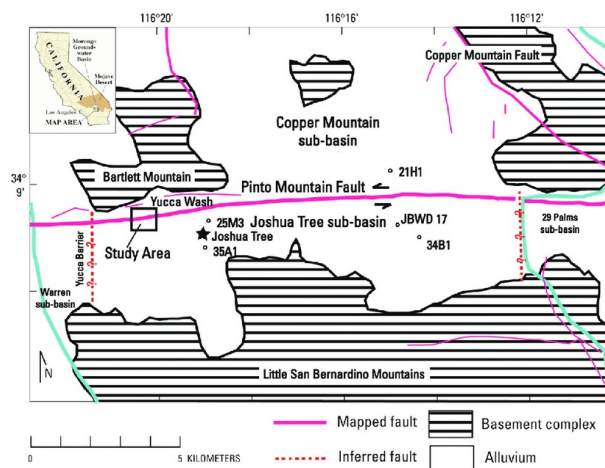


CURIOUS MINDS WANT TO KNOW:

Often, at our Farmers' Market booth or on social media, we get good questions that others may be asking. Here's more of a sample:

Q: Where is our ground water located?

A: The water is right below our feet (about 500 feet below) trapped between the decomposed granite, sand, and rock (similar to a big wet sponge). This map shows you where:



ATTENTION ALL OWNERS AND MANAGERS IN THE
Hospitality Industry

Join us for a meeting to help you \$tretch your water dollar\$!



Are you an owner / manager of a short-term or long-term rental? Are you looking at ways of lowering your water bills, reduce plumbing expenses, and protect your septic systems?

Then join us **October 20, 2022, Thursday at 6:30-7PM** for a **ZOOM** informational meeting.

It's **FREE**, but you must pre-register by email to: kjradnich@gmail.com to receive your **ZOOM** link invitation. Simply write "Hospitality" in the subject line, and provide your name and phone number to be registered by **October 19, 2022**.

INDOOR TIPS:

- Minimizing septic issues
- Evaporative cooler efficiency
- Bathroom tips
- Kitchen water savers

OUTDOOR TIPS:

- Pools, hot tubs, fresh-air showers, and cowboy tubs
- Landscape irrigation tips
- Winterizing
- Rain harvesting systems

ALSO:

- How your occupants can gain real time direct information in the event of a major disaster impacting the tap water
- What should be stored on site for tenants for emergency water situations

**OUR OCTOBER
FARMERS' MARKET
BOOTH**

"Protect Our Ground Water!"

Being a community owned Water District, we work hard to keep our tap water safe and



great tasting. This month we'll share safe ways to protect our most essential natural resource--ground water--and be on hand to answer all your questions related to water. Note: Our booth most often has a Board Member on duty to listen to our community's needs and concerns. Stop by and chat!

Note:

The Market will offer special Halloween activities on the last Saturday in October: children's Trick'or Treating at the vendor's booths plus free candy apples, a drawing for free pumpkins, Z107.7 live broadcast, and more!



WATER LOCK-OFFS ARE BACK



Joshua Basin Water District is resuming the practice of meter "lock-offs" for non-payment of water services. This process will provide notice to customers in advance to allow them to contact our Customer Service Department to explore numerous options to avert this (i.e., special payment plans, low income water assistance program via the United Way of the Desert, etc.) If your water bill payment is falling behind, don't wait! Contact customerservice@jbwd.com.



YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Recent Board Action Items of Note:

On September 21, 2022 the Board of Directors voted (4-0) on each of three Resolutions to update the Administrative Code: Update the District's Conflict of Interest Code Resolution No. 22-1046, add Board Representative Section Resolution No. 22-1047, and update outdated language resolution No. 22-1048.

Background:

These three Resolutions simply clarify ambiguities found within the Admin Code's written language that guides proper governorship of our Water District, now and into the future.

**Capital Improvement and Replacement Program:
"C.I.R.P." UPDATE
You're water dollar\$ at work!**

SOME OF OUR CHALLENGES:

When we started the CIRP program, the purchase price of a foot of 8" pipe was \$5.88 on 5/30/19. Today, it is \$24.05 a foot and rising! This cost increase hike goes for all copper, valves and hydrants, too.

As of today, CIRP has laid over 59,000 feet of new pipe which is 11.2 miles. We currently have 300 miles of pipe for our entire water system, and 175 miles of that pipe is 60+ years old with 240 miles of pipe that needs to be replaced.

We buy our pipe--as we go--for every job phase so that it doesn't get sun burned and ruined in storage.



Photo: Installing new pipeline on the Tilford Project: Phase One.

DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

October Watering Schedule: Before 9:00 AM --After 6:00 PM

As the weather cools down, grass, shrubs, and trees need less water. Reduce the amount of time and the number of days per week that you water. Should fall bring measurable rain, remember to turn off your watering systems during the rainfall, and then for at least 24 hours following the precipitation.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

Take advantage of fall planting season to develop summer-ready plants.

- Continue to plant native, drought-tolerant, and other perennial plants and trees; fall plantings develop deep roots while soils are still warm.
- Adjust irrigation timers as nights get longer and cooler. Simply making monthly changes to your irrigation schedule can save more water and more than any other thing you can do.
- Fall annuals abound in nurseries, but are mostly high water-use; consider using them only near entries, on patios, and in containers. Plant perennials and bulbs for lower maintenance and water use.

October 2022 Plant of the Month

Desert Wild Grape

Vitis girdiana

Plant Form: Deciduous vine

Water Use: Low, moderate

Mature Size: 10-30 ft. tall and wide

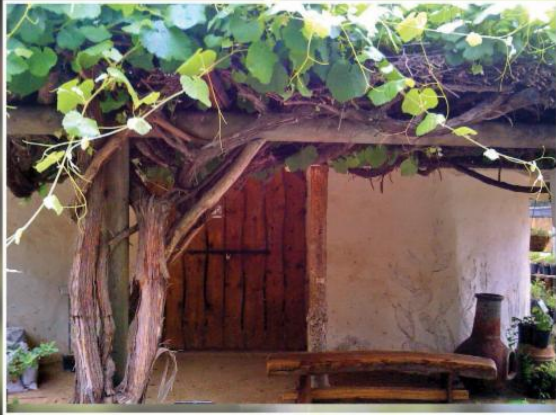
Exposure: Full sun, part shade

Bloom Time: Spring (March – May), Summer (June – Aug)

Native to: Southern California, California Channel Islands

Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 0°F

Desert Wild Grape is a fast-growing, deciduous vine that produces small but edible black grapes for birds and people. The silvery-green foliage turns color and drops in winter, but the persistent tendrils remain wrapped around structures it has climbed onto for support. This southern California native is very easy to grow, is heat tolerant, and is a great bird plant for all berry-eating birds of summer. After it becomes established, water deeply just once a month. Prune in winter when it is leafless to train its shape; in spring and summer you may prune any wayward stems at any time. Desert Grape is wonderful on shade structures like arbors, ramadas, or pergolas to create a cool, shady, summer retreat in western gardens. Train this wild grape to grow up a trellis, fence, arbor, or wall for summer shade, or allow it to grow as a groundcover.



awac

Water-Conserve Today for Tomorrow

Alliance for Water
Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water-use gardening,
contact your local water provider or go to

www.hdawac.org

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Joshua Basin Water District |
www.jbwd.com



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