

MONSOON ACTIVITY HELPS THE LANDSCAPE

We have finally received some much-needed rainfall in the Valley. The high nitrogen content of the rain helps with the overall health of the turf, trees and shrubs by flushing salts through the root zones that have built up in the dry summer. Take advantage of the rain by shutting your irrigation system down for a few days after any storm. A general rule would be to keep the system off for three days after a 0.25" of rain has been detected and monitor how the landscape reacts. Always remember, overwatering does as much harm as underwatering in the desert landscapes by suffocating the root zones if you don't let them dry out between irrigation cycles.

Arizona will be facing a Tier 2 drought plan soon. This will result in a cutback of 592,000-acre feet of water for the state or a 21% reduction from previous years. This cutback equates to 192,903,792,000 gallons of water as an acre foot of water is 325,851 gallons.

With turf using four times the amount of water as desert trees and shrubs, this will be an excellent time to reduce winter overseeding to your turf areas. For every acre of turf that does not get overseeded this winter, you can save 500,000 gallons of water from October to March. This is significant and will help to save valuable resources for our communities.

At Westbrook Village, the Board of Directors have decided to go with the same plan as in 2021 to save water resources. SDL will not be overseeding a little over two acres of turf but will be overseeding the community centers and highly visible right of ways throughout the community. We have significantly cutback our water usage with the rain and additional humidity that August brings. Year to date, we are under the usage of 2021 and hope to continue to save water without causing stress to the landscape. Programming irrigation controllers on a weekly basis with an eye on the forecast can save you tons of money by being proactive rather than reactionary. Anticipating the trends in the weather when programming your controller is a must when managing water and landscapes.

If you are planning on overseeding your turf areas, start to cut back your run times and frequency this time of year. Lower your mowing height gradually each week will help reduce the quantity of clippings to be hauled away when scalping.

Let's hope the rains continue in the Valley and north of us to replenish Lake Mead and ease the strain our drought has put on the Phoenix area. Every drop saved will go to a better future for our communities.