

## TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



## NOVEMBER 2022

**AUGUST 2022 Residential Gallons Per Capita  
Water Use: 105 Gallons**

*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 has determined our water use per person per day is 47 gallons by 2025, and 42 gallons by 2030. Keep saving, Joshua Tree!***



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

**You don't know its  
true worth...  
until it's gone.**

**SAVE WATER**

To learn more, contact your local water providers: Joshua Basin Water District, Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency, Hi-Desert Water District, Mojave Water Agency, Twentynine Palms Water District

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### NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS OBSERVED

- November Farmers' Market Booth
- Your Leadership in Action
- C.I.R.P. Update
- November Gardening Tips and Plant of the Month

## Upcoming Events and Meetings:

### Regular Board of Directors meetings:

- Wednesday, Nov 2, 5:30 PM
- Wednesday, Nov. 16 **Cancelled**  
*Virtual/ZOOM, or in person*

### Citizens Advisory Council Meeting:

- Tuesday, Nov. 8, 5:30 PM  
*Virtual / ZOOM*

### Special Joint Board & CAC Workshop:

- Wednesday, Nov. 9, 9 AM

### Winterizing Class:

- Tuesday, Nov. 15, 6 PM-7:30 PM  
*Virtual / ZOOM*

For Agendas, Zoom links, and other calendar items visit: [www.jbwd.com](http://www.jbwd.com)



### VETERANS DAY

November 10, Thursday  
*(District observed)*

### THANKSGIVING DAY

November 24, Thursday

*Please note: in the event of a water emergency, please contact the District Office at (760) 366-8438--our crews are always on standby 24/7!*



**DAY LIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME ENDS:  
Sunday, November 6th**

## NOVEMBER Water Saving Tips: In Your Kitchen

Approximately 8 percent of in-home water use is in the kitchen. This is more often true during this season of holidays, where many of us find ourselves entertaining and feeding family, friends, and neighbors. Here are multiple tips on reducing your water waste while performing kitchen duties:

- Install a **water saving kitchen faucet aerator**, which can cut water use in half.  
*Water saved: 1 to 2 gallons per minute*
- If possible install a **touchless/touch-free kitchen faucet** that turns water on as need

automatically and shuts off when done to limit water usage.

*Water saved: 20+ gallons per month*

- Wash fruits & vegetables in a pot of water instead of running water over them.

*Water saved: 50 gallons per month*

- Defrost food in the refrigerator instead of running water over it

*Water saved: 50 gallons per month*

- Cook food in as little of water as possible, it also helps to retain more of the nutrients

*Water saved: 20+ gallons per month*

- Use designated water bottle or cup per person all day to cut down on dirty dishes to wash

*Water saved: 50+ gallons per month*

- Repair or replace leaky sink faucets & sprayers

*Water saved: 130 gallons per month*

- Don't rinse dishes before loading dishwasher, just scrape food off and allow dishwasher to take care of the rest.

*Water saved: 20 gallons per load*

- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. An efficient dishwasher usually uses much less water than washing dishes by hand.

*Water saved: 10 gallons per load*

- When ever possible use the dishwashers quick wash mode to use the minimal water required to wash a full load of dishes.

*Water saved: 1+ gallon per load*

- When buying a new dishwasher, consider purchasing a water-saving model. (New models use up to 25 percent less water than older ones.)

*Water saved: 3 gallons per load*

- When washing pots & pans by hand allow them to soak in dish-soap & water instead of scrubbing them vigorously while allowing water to run over them.

*Water saved: 100+ gallons per month*



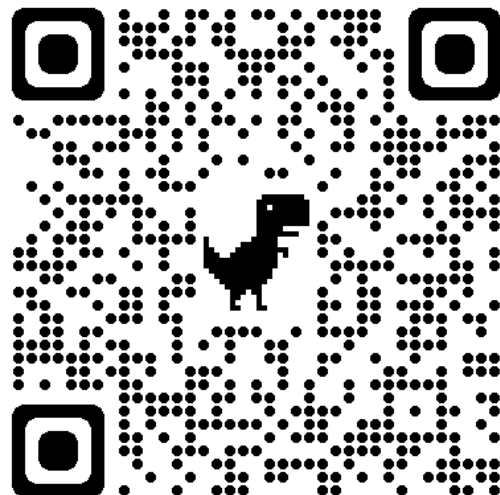
## SCAN-Tastic!

Water is everything, and everything is water...so what are you going to do if you go to your water tap and nothing comes out? Go to [jbwd.com](http://jbwd.com) for an instant update right at the top of the Home Page...but wait! Better yet:

**SCAN** this QR code and fill in your most current contact information so that we can make our best effort to reach out to you with any emergency water alerts that may impact you in real-time.

We can't control when things go bump in the night, but we will work hard to save our water and to keep our community safe and informed where water is concerned.

So, don't delay! Using a smartphone, open your camera app and focus on/scan the box with the dinosaur!



*IMPORTANT TO NOTE: We keep your updated information private. Use this app to update your information as often as needed.*

**November 15: WINTERIZE-- to Save Water!**

**“WINTERIZE YOUR HOME...  
INSIDE AND OUT”**

**A seasonally timely class teaching you how to:**

- \* Take steps to conserve energy by winterizing your home
- \* How to properly insulate water pipes so they don't freeze and burst during the cold winter days, causing otherwise huge repair bills
- \* Materials to use to save money, time, water and prevent damage to your property

**FREE. Open to all interested residents. Pre registration required by November 14, 2022. Email: [kjradnich@gmail.com](mailto:kjradnich@gmail.com)**

*Sponsored by: Joshua Basin Water District, Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation, & Mojave Water Agency,*

**Tuesday, Nov. 15th 2022  
6PM-7:30PM (Virtual: ZOOM)**

Hosted by Joshua Basin Water District

Instructed by Tony Walters, Mojave  
Desert Resource Conservation District

**IT'S  
BRUSH FIRE SEASON:  
Help save more than water!**

Whether it involves one acre or thousands of acres, brush fires consume countless gallons of our limited water supply to extinguish them--and that is just the beginning of the damage caused by a single careless act. Consider the



emotional, financial and long-term impacts of brush fires, as well as:

- Human and animal lives may be impacted, even lost
- Homes for residents and wildlife may be destroyed (with winter right around the corner)
- Burnt vegetation lends to mud slides and severe erosion/flood damage to existing dwellings
- Use of fire retardants to contain the spread of a brush fire impact environmental norms
- Landscape restoration can take decades--at best--or often never returning to their former

natural beauty

With a hot summer behind us causing extremely dry vegetation throughout our area, and the fact that fall is famous for the hot dry, "Santa Ana Winds"-- this is a **RED ALERT** for everyone to place fire prevention as "top of the mind awareness".

**Below are just a few behaviors of brush fires to keep in mind:**

- **Topography** - Fire typically burns more quickly and intensely up steep slopes.
- **Climate** - Fire moves faster and is more intense under hot, dry, and windy conditions.
- **Crown Fire Potential** - Under extreme conditions, fires burn to the top of trees and tall brush.
- **Ember production and movement** - Burning embers, known as firebrands, spread fire ahead of the flame front and can ignite buildings up to a mile away from the main fire.
- **Weather** - Severe intense brush fires can create their own weather over the burning areas

Be fire smart! Observe precautionary "Red Flag" notices (indicates weather is ideal for brush fires). Follow fire safety practices: no open fire pit fires, store flammable materials carefully, clear property of brush and debris, crop trees to 6ft. above the ground, clean roof gutters, and keep a "defensible" cleared space around your property.

Click on the link below and familiarize you and your loved ones with this important information:

**[BRUSH / WILD FIRE SAFETY](#)**



## MUCH TO DO ABOUT MULCHING...

*Mulching does wonders to help conserve water in your garden!*

In all climates and especially in the desert, mulch is invaluable for its ability to help conserve water. By providing a buffer, mulch reduces water loss due to evaporation from the soil surface, greatly diminishing water needs. The soil retains water and potentially lowers total water usage, making the proper

use of mulch an indispensable aid to desert gardening.

Mulch also helps moderate soil temperature by acting as an insulator. It is the "thermal jacket" that plants need to keep the soil warm in the winter and to regulate temperature during the hot summer. Two to three inches (or more) of a good quality mulch can make a difference of 10 degrees or more in the soil temperature.

During the rainy monsoon season, mulch minimizes erosion and slows water to protect the soil from

washing away. When organic materials are used as mulch, additional nutrients are provided to the soil as the mulch breaks down over time. Fall is a great time to mulch!

To learn more, start by visiting: [About mulching](#) and [Types of mulch](#)

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:



### **Nature Scapes Contest:**

Don't miss out on this great fall opportunity to show-off your garden! To learn more, go to: [How to enter the contest](#)



### **The Garden is now open!**

Meander through five themed water wise gardens for desert landscape inspiration, or contact [Kathleen](#) for a free guided tour! Located at the District Office at 61750 Chollita Rd. in Joshua Tree, the gardens are open to the public during regular business hours.



### **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. If your water bill payment is falling behind, don't wait! Contact: [customerservice@jbwd.com](mailto:customerservice@jbwd.com).



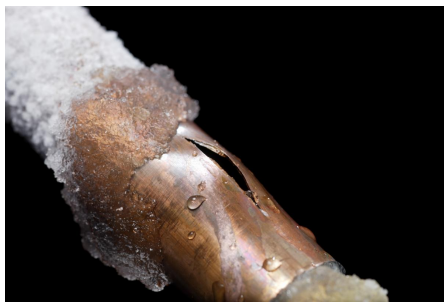
## CURIOUS MINDS WANT TO KNOW:

**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: Are all local fires put out with fresh clean tap water?**

**A:** Initially, yes. We have no surface (non potable) water to draw on. Should a fire, such as a large brush fire expand, often helicopters and airplanes collect non-potable water from neighboring regional lakes--flying back and forth at considerable distances and costs to all of us.

Also, JBWD--as a "community owned Water District"-- is responsible for maintaining the fire hydrants in Joshua Tree, not the Fire Department.



## OUR NOVEMBER FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH "WINTERIZE!"

Yes, the Morongo Basin can and does get freezing temperatures from late fall through early spring. So, don't put off today what could result in hundreds to thousands of dollars in damage and water costs this winter season by delaying to winterize now.

It often only takes pennies and the DIY spirit to winterize you home. Just because you haven't had any problems so far, does not mean you are immune from the threat of pipes freezing on your property. As pipes age, they weaken. If not properly protected, they can and will freeze--and even burst. This is also true for pool pumps, drip irrigation systems, and swamp / evaporative cooler lines, etc. If you can't take our free class on Winterizing, then be sure to stop by our Farmers' Market booth display this month to learn more!



## YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

### *Recent Board Action Items of Note:*

On October 5, 2022, the Board of Directors voted (4-0) on the new benefits/compensation package and wages/salary scale for JBWD employees. See the outlined details from this Board Meeting here: [JBWD Employee Compensation Proposal \(pgs. 8-17\)](#)

#### **Background:**

The Board deliberated on all proposed aspects of the new employment package and ultimately decided that a vote of "yes" would retain our "A" grade as a District water provider, and that our community --and our employees--deserved nothing less than this.

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

### **PLANNING FOR FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY** *Come join the conversation...*

Five years ago, we planned our future water finances to see us through 2022, *including projects to replace our aged waterlines*. No one could have anticipated the financial impact a global pandemic would have caused, as well as, the current severe drought, nor the extreme inflationary economy we all have been navigating. Due to these unanticipated economic challenges, and the continuing uncertainties that remain, JBWD began re-evaluating finances, operations, and water sustainability. In short, we call this a "rate study".

As a community-owned Water District, there will be several opportunities to learn and engage in dialogue over the future of Joshua Tree's water, so take note of the following meeting dates slated for discussion:

- **Nov. 8, 5:30PM:** Citizens Advisory Council--(CAC) evaluate/hone recommendations
- **Nov. 9, 9 AM:** Special Joint Board & CAC Workshop--evaluate/hone recommendations
- **Mid-Dec.:** Special Board Meeting--review and finalize recommendations; move forward with Prop 218 Process
- **Jan. 10, 2023, 5:30 PM:** CAC/Community Workshop--Presentation on findings and Q & A on finalized recommendations
- **Feb. 15, 2023:** Board Meeting--Prop 218 Public Hearing and Board vote



**Photo Caption:** A preliminary joint Board of Directors and Citizens Advisory Council meeting was held on October 12, to hear the initial "Preliminary Findings & Rate Scenarios" as presented by the third party rate consultants, Bartle Wells Associates.

*This meeting was publicized and open to the public.*

*In attendance (either present in the room or virtually on screen via ZOOM) were:*

- 4 Board Directors
- The General Manager
- 3 CAC members
- 6 Key staff members
- 3 Consultants
- 2 Board Candidates for Division 1

# DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

**November Watering Schedule: Between 9:00 AM and 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:

Last chance for fall planting season while roots are still active

- You may continue planting this month even with cooler temperatures, but plants will establish roots more slowly than earlier in fall
- Plant seeds for spring and summer blooms; choose mix of western wild flowers with annual and perennials for long-lasting color
- Irrigate frequently during Santa Ana winds, which pull moisture from both plants and soil
- Give one last deep watering to deciduous trees and grapevines, but discontinue feeding to harden them off
- Irrigate fall-planted trees and shrubs deeply once or twice a month to ensure good root formation prior to cold-weather dormancy

## November 2022 Plant of the Month

### Desert Broom, Broom Baccharis

*Baccharis sarothroides*

Plant Form: Semi-deciduous shrub  
Water Use: Very low  
Mature Size: 6-12 ft. tall x 6-7 ft. wide  
Exposure: Full sun  
Bloom Time: Summer (June – Aug), Fall (September – October)  
Native to: Southern California, southwest US, Mexico  
Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 15°F

Desert Broom has branches that are so green, you won't notice that it drops its small, narrow leaves during drought, making this rounded shrub look like a giant, green broom. This fast-growing, bright green shrub provides great cover for birds and wildlife in naturalistic landscapes, and can create an extremely low-water-use privacy screen or hedge. Male and female flowers are on separate plants. Tolerant of sun, heat, cold, poor soils, and drought, this easy-to-grow California native has only one possible fault: prolific fluffy seeds from female plants. Ask for male plants to prevent unwanted seedlings. Prune in fall to shape and refresh for an improved appearance. While plants may grow 6-7 feet tall (even up to 12 feet), they can be clipped to 2-3 feet. Desert Broom is useful for bank and slope stabilization, erosion control, privacy screens, hedges, windbreaks, and barriers, as well as in habitat restoration, butterfly, bee, and bird gardens, and in cottage and Mediterranean gardens.



**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](http://www.hdawac.org)

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