

Winter

■ december ■ january ■ february

GRASS
COOL SEASON GRASSES, like *Maegrass*, should be watered every two weeks.

WARM SEASON GRASSES ought to be watered once every four to six weeks.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Water evergreens and shade trees once a month. Prune lightly to shape deciduous trees if needed, but avoid heavy pruning to minimize problems with sun scald and frost damage. Shake off wet and heavy snow from conifers to minimize branches breaking from the weight.

Mini-oasis zone:
Hold at water use

ROSES

Water once a month. If roses have had problems with mildew and other diseases, clean up and remove fallen leaves to minimize problems next year. Apply organic mulch.

BIRDS

Use a general seed mix to attract the widest variety of birds. Mix can include millet, milo and sunflower seeds. Keep the feeder filled at all times and keep a water source, ice-free.

Moderate zone:
Infrequent watering

ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, WILDFLOWERS

If you have bulbs waiting in the refrigerator, be sure to plant them as soon as possible. Water the bed once a month. Annual beds can be cleaned out and compost worked into the soil in preparation for spring planting. Perennial beds can be left alone until early spring.

Drought-tolerant zone:
Water rarely

MORE HELP FOR YOUR GARDEN

■ The Journal's xeriscape series is at www.abajournal.com/xeri

■ Xeriscape, water conservation and city water bill rebate information at 505-768-3655, or www.cbce.gov/waterconservation

■ Xeriscape information at www.xeriscapes.com

■ Look for tips on water-wise gardening every three months on the cover of *HomeStyle*. Our next quarterly planner will appear Saturday, March 1.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

Do not water. Look for cochineal insects, which can be identified by white, downy patches. Treat with light dormant oil spray.

BUG WATCH

Apply dormant sprays if you've been having problems with over-wintering scale insects on pines and other evergreens. If spraying is necessary, look for a window of time in which you will have 6-8 hours of daylight temperatures above 45 degrees. Start looking for aphids in February and hose off if present.

HOSES

Disconnect at both ends and coil to drain, but keep handy for winter watering.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

Winter is a good time to till and add organic matter. Continue harvesting lettuce, chard, spinach and other greens. Cover winter greens with a frost blanket on the coldest nights. Water every 10-14 days.

COMPOST

Continue adding non-meat and nongreasy kitchen waste to the compost pile. Moisten and turn at least twice during the winter months.

NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS

Water once every 4-6 weeks at most. Protect young plants from rabbit damage with wire mesh or repellents.

WILDLIFE

Place a bale of alfalfa hay as far away from plantings as possible to give rabbits something to eat other than your garden.

Sources:
Justin Phillips, Remonzo Beach
Native Plants; Gavi Arévalo, Wild Birds Unlimited