

Landscaping Tips for a Hot, Dry Summer

In the Chihuahuan Desert, we are accustomed to an arid climate with only 9 inches of rain per year. This year we saw record hot temperatures in June. We are also experiencing a river drought with only half the normal months of water in the Rio Grande. El Paso Water has urged customers to be *Water Smarter* this year. Given the hot, dry summer (*at least so far*), it can be hard on our landscapes. How can you be *Water Smarter*?



Select drought tolerant or native plants like the Chocolate Flower.

1. No matter how much you care for some plants, only those that are native or adapted to hot dry climates will come back. Next time you are purchasing plants, look for those that love the heat. There are thousands of shrubs, trees and ground covers that thrive in our climate. Visit the website [El Paso Desert Blooms](#) to learn about plants that love our Chihuahuan Desert.



Water early in the morning or wait until sunset.

2. We all run for cover in the shade to cool off, so it makes sense to add shade to your surroundings in the form of canopy trees on the west side of our homes to lower the afternoon temperature inside your home. This can also reduce energy needed to crank up the air conditioner. Other shade options include pergolas, canopies, awnings, and gazebos.

3. Water early in the morning or wait until sunset to water your landscape, and you have permission to skip days during drought conditions. Your grass will spring back unless it is a grass variety not adapted to our dry climate.

4. Be creative with water use, and reuse water from your home. For example, collect water when waiting for cold water to turn hot in the shower. Use that water to water the plants. Another idea: save unused ice cubes or leftover pasta water (once cooled) to drench a plant or bush.

For more water conservation tips, go to our [website](#) or, if you missed it, read more about our [Water Smarter](#) campaign.

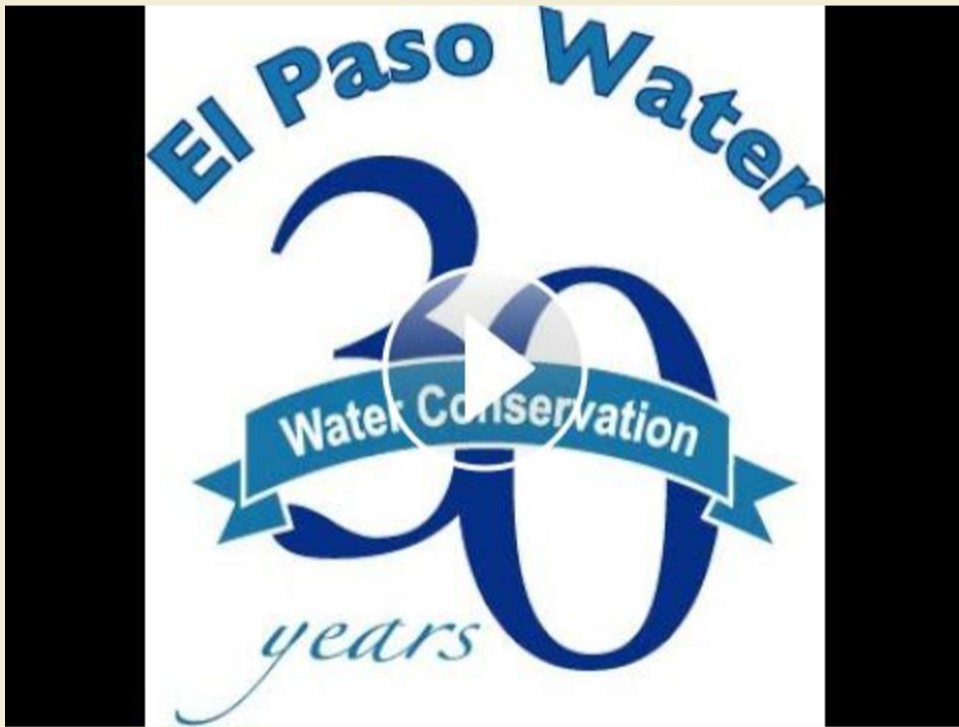


30 Years of Conservation

This year marks a big milestone for El Paso Water: 30 Years of Conservation. Our city ordinance went into effect in April of 1991. Since then, we have cut our consumption on a per person basis by more than 30%. Watch the following video to learn more about our leadership in water conservation and how we achieved reductions in water use.

During the pandemic, however, we saw the water use trendline go in the wrong direction. Like many states and communities, consumption spiked with early stay-at-home orders. While water use is trending downward, it is still higher than it was prior to the pandemic.

We are encouraging everyone to look at home water use and find ways to be more efficient. You can save water and save money on your bill too!



Don't miss the latest conservation tips from EPWater and events taking place at the [Tech2O Learning Center!](#)

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