

# Smart Water Use in Chino Valley

## Tip #7: Keys to Efficient Irrigation

*Efficient irrigation means applying the right amount of water to your landscape, no more or less. A properly installed system will ensure plants receive adequate water on the right schedule. Water more deeply and less often.*

### Designing an Efficient Irrigation System

1. Group plants, trees and shrubs in zones based on water and sunlight needs.
2. An automatic controller allows each zone to be watered on a schedule that can be adjusted. Timers should be adjusted at least once a month to optimize efficiency.
3. A rain sensor prevents unnecessary watering when natural rainfall is sufficient.
4. A backflow prevention device must be installed and inspected according to Town Code.
5. Regular checks for clogged or damaged pipes and sprinkler heads helps prevent water waste.
6. Don't water sidewalks and driveways.

### Watering Guide

Inches of Water Per Week for a Healthy Lawn

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
1.5"	2"	2.5"	2"	1.5"	1"

#### Measure the sprinkler system output

1. Place four, one pint containers at different places within the spray pattern.
2. Water the lawn for 15 minutes.
3. Combine the four containers and measure the total depth of water collected. This is the sprinkler output for one hour.
4. Adjust your watering time for correct output.

[www.chinoaz.net/water\\_res](http://www.chinoaz.net/water_res)

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## Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater harvesting is a technique used to capture and use natural rainfall, helping to reduce your impact on the region's groundwater supplies. A harvesting system simply requires rainfall, a method to catch and distribute water, and a landscape in need of water. These systems can range from very simple to quite elaborate. Simple systems merely require a roof, gutters and berm or trench systems to direct flow to landscaped areas. Elaborate systems involve directing rainwater into holding tanks where it can be distributed over time via irrigation systems.

### ***Rainwater Harvesting Benefits***

- ***Reduced impact on precious groundwater resources***
- ***Less demand on municipal water supplies***
- ***Lower water bills for municipal customers***
- ***Lower electricity bills for private wells***
- ***Reduced runoff and erosion***
- ***Less salt accumulation in soil***
- ***Healthy plants, soils and landscapes***



Photo courtesy of High Desert Rain Catchment., Prescott, AZ.

For more information, see ***Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use*** by Patricia Waterfall at the U of A Cooperative Extension. <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1052/>



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