



The triple-digit temperatures and long days can only mean one thing: it's summertime in the Valley! As we move out of spring's blooming season, our main focus shifts to protecting your landscape in the scorching heat. Be on the lookout for some fresh color as our Special Projects team recently added new plants in the front yards of Sunset Trails. We are working with the Board and Community Management on plant installations along Melvern Trail next. Our Arbor Department is pruning select trees as needed, keeping an eye on low-hanging branches and sightlines and thinning out canopies to help protect from pests and storm damage. This will help keep your trees stable and safe as monsoon season approaches. The onsite crew is also trimming overgrown plants along walkways and curbs and cleaning up fallen leaf debris and bean pods. Turf transition continues, and we are fertilizing your turf regularly to help the Bermuda emerge from winter dormancy. Your turf may look a little patchy during this period, but this will improve once the Bermuda has completed its full transition. We continue to adjust your irrigation system according to the rising temperatures to help keep your plants, trees and turf hydrated and healthy in the early summer heat.

Watering for Our Summer Heat

Summer has arrived in the Valley, and June is generally the hottest and driest month of the year. Just like us, plants and trees get thirsty when temperatures begin to rise. When summer monsoons arrive and the humidity increases, plants actually require less water. Ensure your home landscape is getting the water it needs now and you won't be playing catch up later.

To minimize waste and to get more water to the roots, we recommend watering at night whenever possible. Now is also a good time to provide supplemental water to cactus and other succulents if they are not already on a drip water system. Take special care to not overwater saguaros.

Here are some helpful tips to assist you in getting the right amount of water where it needs to go:

1. Check that your water delivery system is functioning correctly by turning the system on and walking around your yard. Check your emitters to make sure they are watering what they are supposed to and where they are supposed to.
2. Check your irrigation controller to see if the watering schedule meets the needs of your landscape during the hot summer months. Sometimes the controller can default to a general schedule if you recently lost power.
3. Use a long screwdriver or piece of rebar to test the depth of how far your water is soaking into the ground. A screwdriver will move easily through most soil when it is wet, but will stop when it reaches dry soil. The roots of most shrubs are not more than 6" to 18" deep and even a large tree

will have most of its roots within the first 24" of soil. For turf, getting moisture to a depth of 6" should be sufficient.

For additional tips on how to use your irrigation system to manage your landscapes watering needs, continue reading at <http://dlclearningcenter.com/2012/07/06/water-management/>

Get Ready For Monsoon Season

With summer temperatures creeping into the triple digits, monsoon season is just around the corner. Summer monsoon storms offer much needed rain to our desert environment but also pose the biggest weather related risk for trees. If not pruned and thinned properly, your trees are more susceptible to the strong monsoon winds.

Continue reading about how to prepare your trees for monsoon season here:
<http://dlclearningcenter.com/2013/06/17/monsoon-season-ready-or-not-here-it-comes>