



WATER NEWS

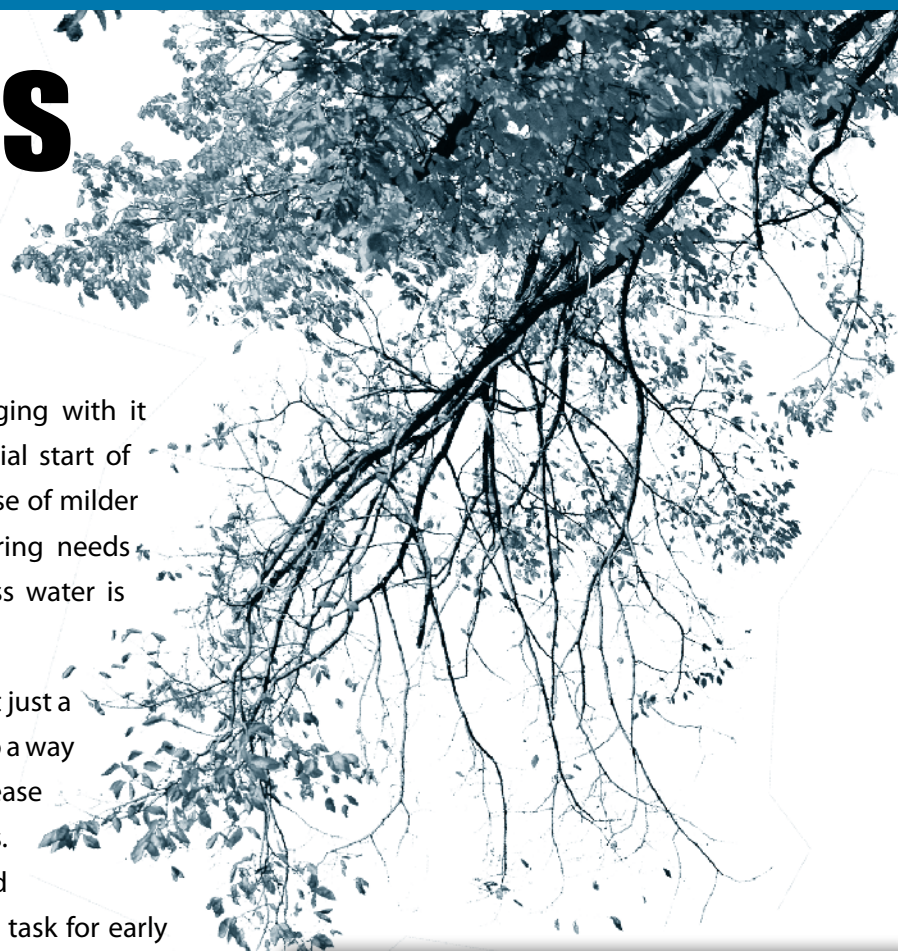
SEPTEMBER 2008

Autumn is Upon Us

Hurricane season is in full swing, bringing with it the occasional downpour, and the official start of autumn is just around the corner. Because of milder temperatures and seasonal rains, watering needs drop significantly in the fall. In fact, less water is healthier for your fall lawn.





Cutting back on irrigation in the fall is not just a smart way to lower your water bill. It's also a way to avoid brown patch, a lawn fungal disease that thrives in wet grass on cool evenings. If there are several weeks without rain and you decide to water your lawn, plan the task for early morning rather than night.

For personalized watering tips and guidelines, sign up for SAWS Seasonal Irrigation Program at www.saws.org/conservation to have a weekly e-mail advisory sent your way.



ADAPT WATERING NEEDS FOR THE FALL

Here are a few other irrigation tips to consider:

-  Avoid watering plants in the evening. They, too, are susceptible to fungal problems.
-  Pull up soaker hoses and put them away for the winter.
-  Review your irrigation zoning design; consider moving sprinkler heads or splitting a zone.
-  Use inorganic mulch (like gravel) in your herb garden during rainy periods to keep leaves dry and help drain moisture away from them.

QUICK GLANCE

- > Project Agua
- > Community Calendar
- > Come and Take It Fest

Family fun abounds at the annual Fall Wildlife Festival & Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Birdhouse building, reptile exhibits, gardening programs and water saver plant giveaways are all part of the free event. Call (210) 628-1639 or e-mail mlac@audubon.org.

Where you have bedding areas under your trees, apply 3 inches of mulch under the entire tree canopy. Alternatively, apply winterizer lawn fertilizer product, about a 1-cup spread per inch of trunk size.



SAWS Job Positions Now at Market Value

Program Combines Pay, Benefits

San Antonio Water System Board of Trustees recently approved Total Rewards, a new employee compensation program based on market value for each SAWS position. As a result of Total Rewards, a plan is in place to assure 100 percent of SAWS positions will be valued at market. Market value includes the total of pay and benefits combined.

"We need a package that is fair to employees, but also a package that is accountable to our ratepayers," said Board Chairman Alexander Briseño. "That's a tough challenge, but I think we've achieved it with Total Rewards."

In addition to establishing market-based pay ranges, the program outlines a process for rewarding employees based on both their performance and their longevity with the organization.

Project Agua Running Dry

Payment Assistance Program in Need of Funds

Project Agua is a non-profit program established by SAWS to help customers who are having difficulty paying their water bill. Funds, made possible by voluntary donations from local residents and businesses, are used to provide one-time payment assistance to eligible residential SAWS customers.

The rising cost of everything from gas to groceries has increased the need for utility assistance this year and the program is seeking donations. To help out, mail a donation with your SAWS payment. Or, donate in person at any one of the three customer service locations: 803 Castroville Road; 915 W.W. White Road; or 2800 U.S. Highway 281 North.

For more information about Project Agua, call (210) 233-3885 or (210) 233-3371.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Peanut Festival

October 10-11
Courthouse Square,
Floresville
www.floresvillepeanutfestival.org

Leon Valley Trade & Market Days

October 11
Leon Valley Community
Conference Center
www.leonvalleytradeandmarketdays.com

Olé Marketplace

October 23-25
Alzafar Shrine Temple
www.jlsa.org

Wurstfest

October 31-November 9
Landa Park, New Braunfels
www.wurstfest.com

Come and Take It Fest

Texas Revolution the Focus of Annual Celebration

In the wee morning hours of Oct. 2, 1835, the shot that started the Texas Revolution was fired in Gonzales. The battle cry was "Come and take it!"

The historic event is commemorated with a cannon-firing ceremony and reenactment of the battle during the Come and Take It Festival, held every year on the first full weekend in October in downtown Gonzales. This year's event happens Oct. 3-5. For details, call (830) 672-6532 or visit www.gonzalestexas.com.

A Flood of Help

SAWS Crews Aid Neighbors in the Valley

Recovering from a hurricane is a slow process, but residents of Hidalgo County in the Rio Grande Valley got a head start thanks to SAWS crews who volunteered to help clean up.

Stationed about 20 miles north of McAllen just east of the small town of Elsa, the main job of the SAWS team was to help local public works crews clear large debris from stormwater channels and get stagnant water moving again. Using trucks, hoses and diesel pumps, the crew worked around the clock for four days pumping standing water out of streets and neighborhoods.



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www.saws.org

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