



Spring Bloom 2021 Goes Virtual

If there's one thing COVID-19 has taught us, it's how to adapt, especially when it comes to converting real-life events into virtual ones. SAWS' 2021 Spring Bloom event is a prime example.

This year's event will be a four-day virtual extravaganza, March 10-13. You read that right: four days-worth of expert gardening and landscape care, all while saving water! You may not even miss the in-person version. (OK maybe you will, but it still promises to be a world-class gardening event!)

Here's a wee sample of what you can look forward to:

- Interactive webinars to help you complete a gorgeous garden upgrade.



- Self-guided, in-person garden tours (with COVID-19 safety measures, of course).
- Games and prizes (like pots, rain barrels and Botanical Garden memberships).
- Real-time Q&A sessions with local gardening experts.

You'll also learn how to maximize SAWS WaterSaver coupons, earn WaterSaver Rewards points, and discover other incentives to help you create the landscape of your dreams.

So mark your calendars for March 10-13 — we can't wait to see you online for SAWS Spring Bloom 2021! Get all the details at saws.org/springbloom.

Deep Thoughts About Sewers



How low can you go? More than 100 feet underground, apparently — if you want to see the progress on SAWS' massive sewer replacement project on the city's Southwest Side. Engineering & Construction VP Andrea Beymer and President/CEO Robert R. Puente were among the SAWS leaders to descend into the remarkable maze of shafts and passageways along U.S. Highway 90 and SW Military Drive near Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. In all, five miles of tunnels will be constructed for the project, to avoid disrupting traffic and military activity on the surface. Construction is expected to be completed in 2023.



Mask up properly — make sure your mouth *and* nose are covered.
 For the latest coronavirus guidance for San Antonio and Bexar County, visit sanantonio.gov/covid19. You can also text “COSAGOV” to 55000 or call 311.

Get Outdoors For the Health of It

Have you visited San Antonio's newest landmark?

The Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge — the largest wildlife crossing constructed in the United States — is open and unifying both sides of the previously divided Hardberger Park.

At 150-feet-long by 150-feet-wide, the bridge allows people and wildlife to safely cross over Wurzbach Parkway.

Mind the six-foot physical distance from others and be prepared for limited access to public restrooms and water fountains. For more information, visit philhardbergerpark.org.



Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency
210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Hold Off on Lawn Watering — We're Still In Stage 1

Want to get your spring lawn off to a healthy start? Then let the hoses and sprinklers collect a few more cobwebs.

Even though things are starting to green up, most turf grasses don't hit their growing season stride until April. If you start watering too early, the weeds will certainly get a boost, but your lawn won't benefit much at all.

Plus, once-a-week Stage 1 watering rules are still in effect.



It's all good news for your grass and your pocketbook. Since SAWS water rates are tiered, the more you use the more it costs per gallon. That could cause a big jump in your bill if you water too much or too early.

For more ways to reduce outdoor water costs and still have the prettiest yard on the block, visit GardenStyleSA.com.

Not sure which day to water? Learn all about the Stage 1 rules at saws.org/WhenToWater.

Need More Time To Pay Your Bill?

From lost jobs to unexpected expenses, the coronavirus pandemic has taken a toll on many families' finances.

If you can't pay the full balance on your SAWS bill, setting up a payment arrangement will keep your account in good standing and give you more time to pay.

Here's how:

1. Visit saws.org/arrangement.
2. Select the number of months you'd like to pay (3, 6 or 9 months). Your total account balance will be

divided up into equal, affordable monthly payments.

3. Starting with your next bill, you will pay the total current charges plus the payment arrangement amount.

You can also sign up for payment arrangements by calling 210-704-SAWS (7297).

Still struggling to pay, even with a payment arrangement? SAWS Uplift offers 14 different assistance programs with one simple application. Apply today at saws.org/uplift.

5 Steps To a Gorgeous Garden

You may want to sit down for this: There is no such thing as a no-maintenance garden.

Luckily there is such a thing as a *low-maintenance* garden — one that only requires you to tackle five basic tasks before spring officially arrives.

1. **Cut back perennials** after the chance of freezing temperatures has passed, usually around mid-March. The frozen-back foliage is protecting the plant and keeping it insulated.
2. **Hand-pull weeds** when you see them pop up. After a rain when the ground is soft, they slip right out with minimal effort.
3. **Prep soil in bare areas with high-quality compost.** Let it simmer until planting time.
4. **Join SAWS' virtual Spring Bloom March 10-13.** Learn what unique and native plants are ideal for our area and chat with gardening experts about how

to create the landscape of your dreams. Details at saws.org/springbloom.

5. **Mulch to help keep your plant roots cool and retain water.** Use an organic mulch and keep it several inches away from any stems or trunks.

Tackling one task at a time will help your garden not just survive, but also thrive!

