

March 2023

waternews



Your source for all things water

So long winter doldrums, hello WaterSaver coupons!

As sure as the scent of purple wafting from local mountain laurels is a harbinger of spring, so is the return of SAWS WaterSaver Landscape Coupons!

Through Oct. 15, SAWS residential customers can apply for up to four \$100 WaterSaver coupons to replace part of your water-demanding grass with lush, drought-tolerant garden beds. That's \$400 in savings!

Whether your yard is sunny or shady, our approved plant selection has you covered – from groundcovers such as silver ponyfoot and blackfoot daisy, to mid-sized perennials like colorful salvias and Earth-Kind roses, to small ornamental trees including Mexican buckeye and Texas mountain laurel.

For each coupon, you must remove at least 200 square feet of grass where you will place your purchased plants. You must also cap any sprinkler heads in the area where you install your new bed. By doing so, you may also qualify for our residential irrigation design rebate, which may further lower the cost of your outdoor project.

If you have an automatic sprinkler system, call 210-704-SAVE to schedule a free irrigation consultation before you start your landscape coupon project.

Act now if you plan to plant. Don't wait until the heat of summer! Speaking of ...

This summer is predicted to be another scorcher. The SAWS Outdoor Living Rebate is a great incentive to just let some pain-to-maintain grass go — and put a new deck or patio in its place!

The rebate will help with the cost of a wooden deck or hardscape feature made of pavers or stones, or a combination of both. Previously constructed or current under-construction decks and patios are not eligible. The rebate ranges from \$300 to \$1,000, depending how much grass is removed (minimum 200 square feet required). After work is complete and approved, you'll get a cash rebate!

Get all the details and apply online at GardenStyleSA.com/coupons.



It's not time to start watering just yet

If you've kept the hoses and sprinklers stowed away all winter, well done! Stay the course for a little while longer to get your spring lawn off to a healthy start.

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. If we get a few good spring showers, you might even push back watering until mid-April.

That's good news because Stage 2 watering rules — and enforcement of them — are still in effect.

We are still in a drought so it's important that everyone work together to manage through it by following the rules.

As a reminder, under Stage 2, landscape watering with a sprinkler, irrigation system or soaker hose is allowed only from 7-11 a.m. and 7-11 p.m., one day a week, based on the last number of your street address. You can still hand-water with a hose-end nozzle any time.

SAWS water enforcers are patrolling neighborhoods, including gated communities, and issuing fines. If you absolutely must water, make sure your irrigation system is set to water only on your day during the 7-11 hours.

Remember to visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering advice and landscaping tips to keep your yard thriving.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Bees, butterflies, wasps and hummingbirds — find out how you can make a difference for Texas' most important pollinators during **Gardening for Pollinators**, Wednesday, April 12 at San Antonio Botanical Garden. Register at sabot.org.

Event Calendar

Meditation in the Garden

April 8

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Cinema on Will's Plaza: Encanto

April 14

Tobin Center for the Performing Arts
100 Auditorium Circle
tobincenter.org

Guided Bird Tour

April 16

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Viva Botanica

April 22

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org

Barkitecture San Antonio

May 6

Woodlawn Lake Park
501 S. Josephine Tobin Drive
facebook.com/barkitecturesanantonio

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Forget fertilizer for now so weeds won't win

It's March and that means you're probably hearing it call your name from local garden centers. Plug your ears and cover your eyes. Avoid the fertilizer.

Fertilize now and you'll only feed the weeds and help them spread.

Weeds may be thriving in yards from cool season seeds left over from last year. It's best to mow them down or

pull them out by hand. Mowing them down prevents them from flowering and going to seed, which adds to next year's weed crop.



Pulling them out by the roots is even better, especially if the soil is moist from a brief shower. Wear thick garden gloves for protection. Pull gently from the base of the weed and with a little luck, the entire weed and root will come out.

Scouting out a fire hydrant refresh

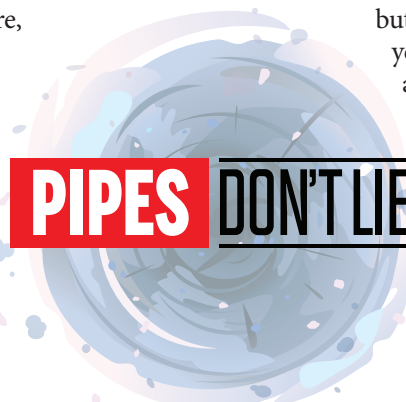
Several SAWS employees joined more than a dozen Girl Scouts from the American Heritage Troop in February to help them tackle a community service project. The mission: Freshen up fire hydrants in a North Side neighborhood. The blue and yellow hydrants in the Village at Cactus Bluff, a former BexarMet service area, were faded and discolored. While most San Antonio hydrants are silver as required by city code, these exceptions to the rule use specific colors to convey important information to firefighters: namely that they open counterclockwise. Led by several women of SAWS, the troop donned proper protective gear and worked in teams to give five hydrants a fresh coat of color.



Fiesta fun will be flowing soon

Fiesta season is nearly here, and it wouldn't be the same without a fun flush of fancy from SAWS!

Following a three-year COVID hiatus, the giant SAWS toilet will make its grand return to the Fiesta Flambeau Parade, April 29. We don't want to spoil the surprise,



but we think you'll marvel at this year's comical theme, unleashing a multiverse of possibilities for keeping our sewers running ... well ... super.

Be sure to follow @MySAWS on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to get the scoop on all the strange Fiesta madness SAWS will be conjuring up this time (and space) around, April 20-30.