

Your source for all things water

Get ready to 'Garden Like a Texan' at SAWS Spring Bloom

From bitter cold and brutal heat to bone dry and waterlogged, wild weather swings are becoming the norm — making it a challenge for gardeners to maintain resilient landscapes.

Fortunately, SAWS Spring Bloom — the premier gardening event of the season — is right around the corner on Saturday, March 9!

The theme of this year's event: Garden Like a Texan.

There'll be interactive activities and practical tips on plant selection, watering, mulching and more. San Antonio Botanical Garden staff will take a cue from their new WaterSaver Community exhibit to help you "Reimagine Your Lawn."

Remember those proposed watering rule changes we've been telling you about? In case you missed it, SAWS leaders have been considering updating the drought stage rules and how they're enforced. Karen Guz, SAWS vice president of Conservation, will share details about the process.

This is your chance to learn what the proposed changes are and weigh in with your input. (Even if you can't make it to Spring Bloom, you can still let us know what you think at wateringrules.com.)

And if you're curious about the new ConnectH2O electronic water meters SAWS has been installing across the city, you can get an up-close look at this technology and how it can help you save water and money.

Of course, local gardening experts will speak throughout the day, revealing their secrets to successful plant care and how to choose a garden style that best suits your home's terrain and character.



As always, the first 1,000 adult guests will receive a free drought-hardy landscape plant. (And, of course, admission and parking are always free as well.)

Come celebrate the unofficial start to spring! Get all the details at GardenStyleSA.com/SpringBloom.

Drought continues and so do Stage 2 watering rules

Late January downpours were a welcome relief, especially to the Edwards Aquifer. But they haven't put an end to the drought — or Stage 2 watering rules.

But that's okay because after all the rain, your landscape doesn't need any extra water. Besides, your lawn is still dormant, so you'd only be feeding winter weeds.

Remember, 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.

Visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering advice and landscaping tips to keep your yard thriving — even in drought.



WRANGLE
YOUR WATER USE
GARDEN LIKE A TEXAN
STAGE 2
WATER WISELY

CHECK THE TIME

7-11 AM MORNINGS
7-11 PM EVENINGS

KNOW YOUR DAY

| M | T | W | TH | F |
|---|---|---|----|---|
| 0 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 |

LAST DIGIT OF ADDRESS



WATER ONCE A WEEK



Join the MySAWS Conversation:



Event Calendar

Earthwise Living Day

March 2

Leon Valley Community Center
6427 Evers Road
leonvalleytexas.gov

Adaptation Artistry

March 12

Government Canyon
State Natural Area
12861 Galm Road
tpwd.texas.gov

Guided Bird Tour

March 24

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

Gardening for Wildlife

March 26

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org



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

Tackle pre-season landscape chores now

If random spring-like temperatures have you itching to get gardening, go for it! There are a few maintenance tasks you can tackle now to prep for spring planting.

- Mow winter weeds repeatedly.
- Pinch back cool season herbs like cilantro, parsley and dill weekly.



- Prune perennials to 3 inches above the ground — but leave frozen plants until the end of February to give wildlife food and shelter.
- Cut back rose branches 1/3 from the tips to a bud.
- Begin planting perennials and shrubs.

For more tips to kickstart your spring garden, visit GardenStyleSA.com.

Fix a Leak week is March 18-24

Household leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted nationwide every year. That's equal to the annual household water use of more than 11 million homes!

Common types of leaks found inside and outside the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets or showerheads, faulty outdoor spigots and broken sprinkler heads. All are



easy to fix, too, with a few basic tools. Fix a Leak Week, part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program, encourages you to be proactive and check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

For more information on costly household leaks and how to fix them, visit epa.gov/watersense.

March 18-24, 2024
Fix a Leak Week

Dispose of household hazardous waste the *safe* way

Pesticides and herbicides can be a convenient way to protect plants from pests and weeds. But when used or discarded incorrectly, these chemicals pose great risks not only to our ecosystem and wildlife, but also to our water, soil, air and human health.

Pesticides and herbicides must be disposed of properly at a household hazardous waste site.

For a complete schedule of monthly drop-off events, visit sa.gov/swmd.

Household Hazardous Waste monthly drop-off

March 1 & 2, April 5 & 6
8 a.m.-noon

Bitters Bulky Waste Collection Center
1800 Wurzbach Parkway

