

April 2025

# waternews



Your source for all things water

## Years-long drought not expected to depart anytime soon

Spring has sprung, though it's a little hard to believe — partly because our plants look just OK, not great. But mostly because we haven't had any meaningful rain in quite some time.

The sad truth is we are still in drought. In fact, this is our sixth dry spring in a row — and Stage 3 watering rules are still in effect.

As a reminder, Stage 3 watering hours for sprinklers — in-ground and hose-end — are 5-10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight, one day a week on your day. You can still water with a hand-held hose any time, any day.

The good news is SAWS plans for extreme droughts just like this one. Thirty years ago, 100 percent of our water came from the Edwards Aquifer. Today, SAWS manages 13 supply projects from seven different water sources.

We've been able to avoid stricter watering restrictions because of our investment in diverse supplies — and because most SAWS customers follow the rules.

"This year will be challenging with less Edwards Aquifer water available," said Karen Guz, SAWS vice president of conservation. "SAWS will be working hard to manage our supplies and we need everyone to be vigilant about their water use."

That includes watering only on your day

and time and being mindful of any water problems at your home or business, and around your neighborhood. If you spot a possible watering rules violation or a leak, report it at [saws.org/waterwaste](https://saws.org/waterwaste).

Violations are never issued based on citizen reports, but we will follow up with a warning to let the owner know there's a problem that needs to be attended to.

Thinking about putting in new grass or lots of landscaping? Please hit pause. Heavy landscape watering can get very expensive in Stage 3. If your residential water use goes above 20,000 gallons per month, a drought surcharge will appear on your next bill. It's probably not a good investment anyway, since your new lawn still may not survive the hot, dry summer.

What you *can* do this season is plan your landscape makeover for the fall. Prep now by getting rid of grass so you can use SAWS WaterSaver Coupons for new planting beds later!

Last year water use dropped a great deal across our city because of the updated watering rules. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

Let's continue that momentum and do even better in 2025. To check the current drought stage and rules, visit [saws.org/drought](https://saws.org/drought).

## KNOW THE **NEW** STAGE 3 WATERING HOURS

**5-10 AM & 9 PM-MIDNIGHT**

KNOW YOUR DAY

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

LAST DIGIT OF ADDRESS

[WateringRules.com](https://WateringRules.com)



Join the MySAWS Conversation:



## Event Calendar

### Habitat Work Day

**May 10**

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center  
10750 Pleasanton Road  
[mitchelllake.audubon.org](http://mitchelllake.audubon.org)

### Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

**May 11**

Government Canyon State Natural Area  
12861 Galm Road  
[tpwd.texas.gov/calendar](http://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar)

### Starlight Movie Series: Alice in Wonderland 2010

**May 22**

San Antonio Botanical Garden  
555 Funston Place  
[sabot.org/events](http://sabot.org/events)

### Painted Bunting Walk

**May 31**

Government Canyon State Natural Area  
12861 Galm Road  
[tpwd.texas.gov/calendar](http://tpwd.texas.gov/calendar)

### Storytime Flow at the McNay

**June 6**

McNay Art Museum  
6000 N. New Braunfels Ave.  
[mcnayart.org/events](http://mcnayart.org/events)

### Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

**210-704-SAWS (7297)**  
[saws.org/waternews](http://saws.org/waternews)

## Spring clean your landscape

With warmer weather here, now is a good time to tidy up your winter-browned perennials. Pruning dead and live branches encourages vigorous growth and new flowers.

How much you remove depends on the species.

- 'New Gold' lantana and most salvias can be cut to 3 inches above the ground, or to where fresh new leaves are emerging.



- Esperanza and Pride of Barbados can be cut to 6 inches above the ground.

- Ornamental grasses like Lindheimer muhly or eastern gamagrass only need a light combing with a rake to remove brown leaves.

For spring-blooming shrubs and trees like Texas mountain laurel, Mexican plum, redbud and ornamental pear, prune *after* they bloom — usually late April or May.

## SAWS Spring Bloom celebrated pollinators and their plants



A bevy of blossom-seekers made a beeline for SAWS' main office to learn how to "Garden Like a Texan" during SAWS Spring Bloom, Saturday, March 8. Visitors learned how to sweeten up their landscapes for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, and got their choice of a free plant to get started. Did you miss out on the bee-utiful festivities? Get buzz-worthy gardening advice all year long at [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com).

## Save the date: Festival of Flowers is May 31

There's another blooming chance to get your spring flower fix at Festival of Flowers!

SAWS is cohosting the event that's celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Water-wise experts will show you how to save water in your landscape while planting for pollinators. The indoor garden mall and outdoor farmers market are there for your shopping pleasure — with water-saving plants and trees, fertilizers, decor and more.

Also returning this year are several favorites including the plant exchange, floral design challenge and "Kids Zone" where budding

gardeners can plant seeds and learn how to care for them.

Of course, the first 1,000 gardening enthusiasts will get a free plant, courtesy of SAWS!

*Festival*  
of Flowers

It all happens May 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the San Antonio Shrine Auditorium, 901 North Loop 1604 West. Admission is \$10 for adults and free for children 10 and younger. Parking is free too!