

Drought persists despite recent downpours

Recent dramatic (and sadly deadly) rain events remain fresh in our minds. So it seems odd to many that despite being inundated with rainfall, we are still solidly in drought — and Stage 3 watering rules.

A little more than half the water our community uses comes from the Edwards Aquifer. This vast underground system of caves, sinkholes, and fractures holds water that is replenished from rain that falls in very specific recharge areas.

But more than five years of below-normal rainfall has caused the aquifer to drop to its lowest levels since the 1950s. While

areas where recharge can occur are large, the sweet spot is northwest of San Antonio. The July storms that brought record flooding to Texas Hill Country rivers fell too far north to have a significant impact on the Edwards. The aquifer

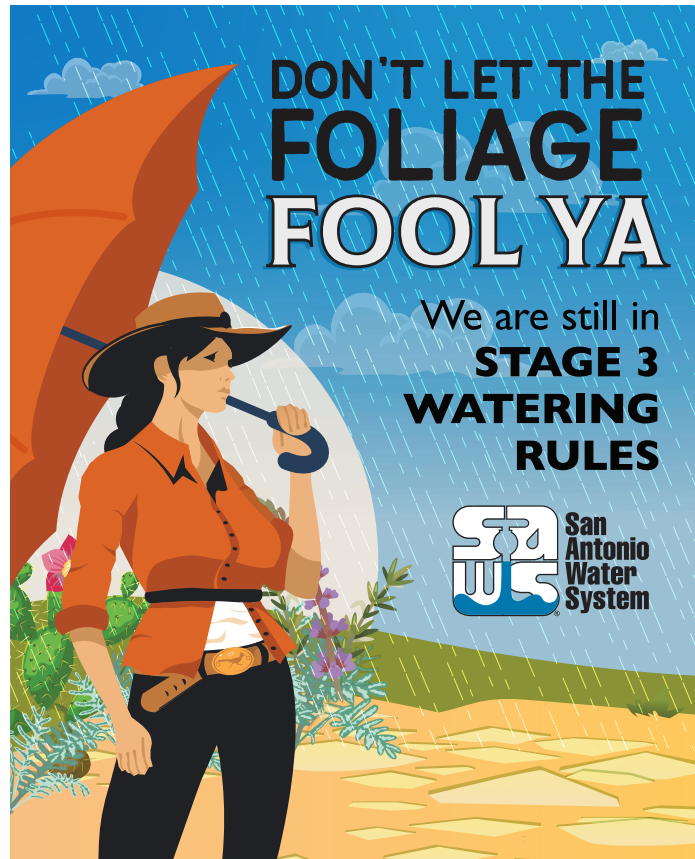
level did increase a few feet, but it remains about 20 feet below normal for this time of year.

The good news is the rain we did receive across our community saturated our soils — and

plants responded with fresh flowers and growth.

Still, more summer heat is expected in August (and possibly September). Everyone can help by continuing to water frugally and only during allowed days and times.

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.



Remember to visit [GardenStyleSA.com](https://www.gardensylesa.com) for weekly watering advice and landscaping tips to reduce outdoor water use while keeping your yard thriving.

Connected with your water use lately?

SAWS' new ConnectH2O meters make it easier than ever to monitor your water use and catch potential leaks early.

If you haven't experienced the convenience of the ConnectH2O meters yet, you will soon — all residential customers are expected to have theirs installed by the end of 2025.

These electronic meters provide hourly water use

online, rather than a single monthly reading. (The meter itself monitors the flow to your home or business in real time.)

CONNECTH₂O

You can monitor and manage your water use via the SAWS My Account website or mobile app. We'll even send you an alert when we detect 48 hours

of continuous home water use, which could mean you have a leak.

Learn more at saws.org/connect.

Event Calendar

Beginning Vermicomposting

Sept. 9

Eco Centro

1802 N. Main Ave.

ecocentro.eventbrite.com

Pollinator Patches & Pocket Prairies

Sept. 13

San Antonio Botanical Garden

555 Funston Place

sabot.org/events

Name That Tune: Birdsong Edition

Sept. 20

Government Canyon State Natural Area

12861 Galm Road

tpwd.texas.gov

Jazz'SAlive

Sept. 26-27

Civic Park at Hemisfair

210 S. Alamo St.

saparks.org/events

Beginner Bird Walk

Sept. 27

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

10750 Pleasanton Road

mitchelllake.audubon.org

Solar Fest

Oct. 4

The Greenline at Brooks

2532 Sidney Brooks Drive

buildsagreen.org/solarfest

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)

saws.org/waternews

Birds as pest control

Nearly all plants in our gardens attract insects. Some are beneficial, while others can destroy a plant in no time.

If you've tried organic pesticides to no avail, why not let our feathered friends do the job instead? Nearly all birds eat bugs, and some rely on them exclusively.

Birds are most likely to feed:

- **In shrubs** – Bushes that bear fruit such as cherry laurel, yaupon and sumac offer up various crawling, flying or hopping insects.



- **In trees** – Spring-blooming trees such as redbuds and fruit varieties attract more pollinating insects than shrubs, and the bark harbors adult insects and their larvae; nesting birds eat the insects and feed them to their young.

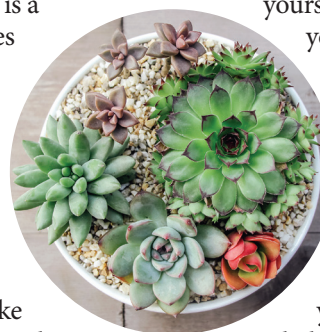
- **On the ground** – Earthworms are a good source of food, and centipedes and roly-poly sow bugs hide in leaf litter.

Provide feeders and water, minimize your use of pesticides and grow plants that attract a variety of birds. With some time and a little luck, birds will be doing your pest control for you!

Space-challenged landscape? Contain yourself.

Not everyone has yard space for a grand garden. But a container garden is a great alternative for small spaces

Container gardening offers portability and creative freedom that a larger landscape can't match. Don't like the location of a plant? Just move it! Plus gardening in pots makes light work of replacing summer superstars like petunias with showy winter annuals such as pansies.



Before you get your garden in gear, familiarize yourself with the needs of the plants you're considering — water and light requirements, growth habits, blooming periods, etc. Selecting containers that best suit your plants will go a long way toward the success of your new garden.

Also, since your plants will be growing in a confined environment, you may need to water and fertilize a little more often.

For more gardening tips, visit GardenStyleSA.com.

STAGE 3 WATERING RULES NOW IN EFFECT

KNOW YOUR DAY

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

LAST DIGIT OF ADDRESS

CHECK THE TIME

5-10 AM & 9 PM-MIDNIGHT

WateringRules.com