

## TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



# OCTOBER 2023

June 2023 Residential Gallons Per Capita  
Water Use: 104.87.Gallons

*Note: Water savings data reflects water use three months in the past. Also, "gallons per capita" is the standard of "measure" for tracking water conservation efforts.*

*The State has determined our water use per person per day is 47 gallons by 2025, and 42 gallons by 2030. Keep saving, Joshua Tree!*



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide, protect, and maintain  
Joshua Tree's water - our vital  
community resource.

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- Curious Minds Want To Know...
- October Farmers' Market Booth
- Your Leadership in Action
- C.I.R.P. Update
- October Desert Gardening Tips
- Plant of the Month

### Special Features:

- October's National Emergency Alert Test
- October's Water Saving Tips
- Compost, Mulch & Soil Amendments Class
- Great Shake Out
- Native Plant Cuttings Propagation Class
- Keep our ground water clean!
- MBCA's Video Landscape Tour
- Winterizing Class

## Upcoming Events and Meetings:

### OCTOBER

#### Board of Directors meetings:

- **Special Meeting:** Board of Directors Retreat -Wednesday, October 4, 9AM-2PM
- **Regular Meeting** - Wednesday, October 18 at 5:30 PM

#### Committee meetings:

- **Finance Committee** -Wednesday, October 11 at 9:00AM
- **Water Resources & Ops**- Wednesday, October 11- cancelled

#### Events/Classes:

- **National Emergency Alert Test:** Wednesday, October 4
- **Compost, Mulch & Soil Amendments Class:** Thursday, October 12 @ 6PM  
*\*To register, see flyer within this newsletter*
- **Great Shake Out:** Thursday, October 19
- **Native Plant Cuttings Propagation Class:** Thursday, October 26 @ 6PM *\*To register, see flyer within this newsletter*

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER:

"Winterizing to Save Water" Class: Thursday, November 9, 6PM via ZOOM

Visit [www.jbwd.com](http://www.jbwd.com) for agendas, Zoom links, and other info.



## FEMA and FCC Plan Nationwide Emergency Alert Test for Oct. 4, 2023

Test Messages Will be Sent to All TVs, Radios and Cell Phones

WASHINGTON -- FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), FEMA will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) this fall.

The national test will consist of two portions, testing WEA and EAS capabilities. Both tests are scheduled to begin at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The WEA portion of the test will be directed to all consumer cell phones. This will be the third nationwide test, but the second test to all cellular devices. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset. The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the seventh nationwide EAS test.

FEMA and the FCC are coordinating with EAS participants, wireless providers, emergency managers and other stakeholders in preparation for this national test to minimize confusion and to maximize the public safety value of the test.

The purpose of the Oct. 4 test is to ensure that the systems continue to be effective means of warning the public about emergencies, particularly those on the national level. In case the Oct. 4 test is postponed due to widespread severe weather or other significant events, the back-up testing date is Oct. 11.

To learn more, visit: [FEMA Emergency Alert Test](#)



## OCTOBER WATER SAVING TIP:

As the fall temperatures begin to drop, so will the temperature of your hot tap water when you first turn the faucet on.

Grab a bucket if you're in the shower and capture that water to use for watering house plants or for house cleaning chores (some even use the shower's first waters to refill their toilet tanks after

flushing!)

If you are in the kitchen, keep a clean two-quart pitcher nearby to capture your faucet's running tap water while waiting for it to warm up. Then use the clean water for rinsing produce, or for cooking or cleaning up after preparing meals.

# WATER SAVING

## Composting, Mulching and Soil Amendments Class

Learn how to save water and enrich your own home garden with this FREE online course offered by the Mojave Water Agency.

### This course will cover:

- ✓ Composting do's & don't's
- ✓ Mulching varieties
- ✓ Use of soil amendments
- ✓ Exploring product resources
- ✓ Defining enhancements

October 12 at 6:00 p.m.

**Register Now**



[www.mojavewater.org](http://www.mojavewater.org)



760-218-2822



**IF AN EARTHQUAKE HAPPENED SUDDENLY, ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A WATER EMERGENCY?**

Be sure JBWD has your most current

Official Participant



# Join Us in the World's Largest Earthquake Drill.



October 19, 2023

Shake  
Out

Register at [ShakeOut.org](https://ShakeOut.org)

**contact information!**

Visit: [Get help to prepare for an earthquake](#) to find out how to plan your own earthquake drills at home or at work, learn about California's earthquake warning system, FEMA and RED CROSS Mobile Apps, and more!

# NATIVE PLANTS



**Mojave**  
**Water**  
**Agency**



## Cuttings & Propagation Class

Don't have the patience to start native plants from seed? "Cuttings" are an alternative method of propagation for some native plants. Learn more in this FREE online course.

### This course will cover:

- ✓ What is propagation?
- ✓ Different methods
- ✓ Identifying different plants
- ✓ How to grow from cuttings
- ✓ How to use specific tools

October 26 at 6:00 p.m.

**Register Now**

This is an online course



[www.mojavewater.org](http://www.mojavewater.org)



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**IN CASE  
YOU  
MISSED  
IT...**

This over-the-top "WOW" Art



**CURIOUS MINDS  
WANT  
TO KNOW:**

Often, at our Farmers' Market booth or on social media, we get good questions that others may be asking. Here's more of a

Expo on *Water in the Desert* showcased amazing art in all art forms that depicted how "precious" our desert water truly is.

Due to the overwhelming success of this premier event, discussions are in progress to make this an annual experience. So stay tuned for more updates in the months ahead so you don't miss out again!

**sample:**

***Q: I had some serious water run-off come through my property with the past storm. Is it safe to plant my fall edible garden there?***

**A:** Experts recommend you *do not* use the same soil for edible gardening, as the waters were most assuredly contaminated with various contaminants crossing over car traveled roadways or properties with pesticides, etc.

It is important to research the anticipated edible plant's root depth, then remove the contaminated dirt first (to that plants root depth level). Then, replace all with good clean healthy soil before growing foods in that location.

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# KEEP OUR GROUND WATER CLEAN!

Follow these easy steps to prevent contamination of our most precious resource!

Follow these simple steps to dispose of medicines in the household trash

## MIX

Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds;



## PLACE

Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag;



## THROW

Throw the container in your household trash;



## SCRATCH OUT

Scratch out all personal information on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or empty medicine packaging to make it unreadable, then dispose of the container.



You can also dispose of your medications at the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Station's lobby drop-box on the ground floor during their business hours. They are located at:

63665 29 Palms Hwy, Joshua Tree, California 92252  
Phone: (760) 366-4175  
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

**BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE...**

What about all your household hazardous



wastes-- products like cleaning agents, paint, insecticides, automotive lubricants, oils, etc.--you need to dispose of them properly so they don't end up contaminating the ground water.

The San Bernardino County's Household Hazardous Waste Program will take them all for you--and you don't even have to get out of your car when you drop them off!

They do it all for you!

PS: They even accept your "sharps"!

Bring them (for free!) to:

Joshua Tree  
West of the Transportation/Flood Control Building  
62499 29 Palms Highway  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

**3rd Saturday**  
**9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Annually, MBCA sponsors landscape tours that include Joshua Basin Water District's Water Wise Demonstration Gardens. They also do feature videos of select residential gardens with great tips and insights from the owners on saving water. Here's the latest in their video series:



Watch it here:  
Morongo Basin Conservation  
Association's 2023 Landscape Video

[Click here to watch!](#)



# SAVE WATER



**Mojave  
Water  
Agency**

## by preparing your home for Winter

Join the Mojave Water Agency for a seasonal workshop on how to save water (and energy) throughout the cold winter months. This online course is FREE and open to the public.

### This course will cover:

- ✓ Water-saving tips and benefits
- ✓ How to protect your landscape
- ✓ How to insulate pipes
- ✓ Methods to conserve energy
- ✓ Money saving materials

November 9 at 6:00 p.m.

**Register Now**

This is an online course



[www.mojavewater.org](http://www.mojavewater.org)



760-218-2822



## **YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION**

### **Recent Board Action Items of Note:**

At the September 20th Board Meeting, Directors voted 5-0 in favor of Resolution 23-1058, to approve the revised Employee Compensation Plan.

#### **Background:**

For decades, JBWD employees were unionized. Recently, the JBWD



employees voted to dissolve their Union, and instead, work directly with JBWD's management. In good faith, JBWD has held to its promise to work directly with its employees with regard to competitive pay, job satisfaction, health benefits, and longevity (loyalty) pay. This approved resolution is a win-win for JBWD's employees, Management, and our Community Owned Water District at large.

F



## OCTOBER FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH: "Keep Our Ground Water Safe!"

We have solutions to help our community keep our ground water safe from poisons, flammables, household chemicals, biological contaminants, and more--so come check out our Farmers' Market Booth Saturdays, 8AM-1PM in the heart of Joshua Tree during the month of October.

**NOTE: The last Saturday in October vendor booths at the Farmers' Market will welcome Trick-Or-Treaters who come visiting!**

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (C.I.R.P.) *and more...* *(August activity in a snapshot)*

### Distribution:

- Repaired leaks
- Completed replacing 8 service lines to copper
- Cleaned 4 reservoir sites from weeds, debris, erosion from rain
- Repacked gravel inside of ring which reservoir sits on
- Mitigated for future flooding and erosion.
- Prepped for hurricane Hilary
- Repaired several sites from some minor flooding.
- FST completed meter reading in 2.5 days.

### Production:

- Started skimming the tanks lasting through the month using around 1.5 million gallons.
- Aquifer recharging has started taking water running around 2400 GPM with the schedule to take just under 1100 acre feet of water before the end of the year
- The C2B valve was rewired and fixed over a few days due to the vault filling up with water after hurricane Hilary.
- Took samples as required by the State outside of our normal sample



schedule (mst be completed by November)

#### C.I.R.P.:

- CIRP is roughly 1 month away from completing Tilford 2 with only 1400' left to install.
- D-1-1 booster station rehab concrete slab is completed (27 yards were delivered to get this completed)
- C2B was graded after the storm for future mitigation of water runoff.

#### In addition JBWD's teams...

- Performed 62 Dig Alert marking requests
- Performed 3 fire flow tests
- Installed 5 new service lines
- 61 new meters were replaced
- 12 fire hydrants were inspected/repared
- 18 valves were exercised

**August Leaks:** Service Lines--21 / Main Lines--3  
**August Total Water Loss (gallons)-- 2,158,037**

## DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

### **October Watering Schedule: Before 9:00 AM and after 6:00 PM**

As the weather cools down, grass, shrubs, and trees need less water. Reduce the amount of time and the number of days per week that you water.

### **THIS MONTH IN YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:** Take advantage of fall planting season to develop summer-ready plants

- Continue to plant native, drought-tolerant, and other perennial plants and trees; fall plantings develop deep roots while soils are still warm
- Adjust irrigation timers as nights get longer and cooler. Simply making monthly hchanges to your irrigation schedule can save more water and money if you can do this
- Fall annuals abound in nurseries, but are mostly high water-use; consider using them only near entries, on patios, and in containers. Plant perennials and bulbs for lower maintenance and water use.

## HISTORIC USES OF: Palmer's Indian Mallow *aka: Abutilon palmeri*

- Plant is traditionally used in India, Pakistan, China and the Philippines for treatment of numerous diseases like bronchitis, body ache, toothache, jaundice, diabetes, fever, piles, leprosy, ulcers, cystitis, gonorrhea, diarrhea, asthma, etc.
- Plant is used in traditional medicine for inflammation, piles and gonorrhea treatment and as an immune stimulant.
- It is also used as an aphrodisiac, anti-diabetic, nervine tonic and diuretic.
- This medicinal plant plays an important role in folk medicine:
  - used as a blood tonic, carminative, antipyretic, anti-cough, diuretic, anti-inflammatory, laxative and anti-diabetic in Thailand.
  - used for urinary disease, gonorrhea, jaundice, rheumatism, high fever, mumps, pulmonary tuberculosis, bronchitis, lack of urination and some nervous and ear problems in India and China.

## Palmer's Indian Mallow

*Abutilon palmeri*

Plant Form: Shrub, perennial herb

Water Use: Extremely low

Mature Size: 4-6 ft. tall x 3-5 ft. wide

Exposure: Full sun

Bloom Time: Spring (Mar - May), Summer (June - Aug), Year-round

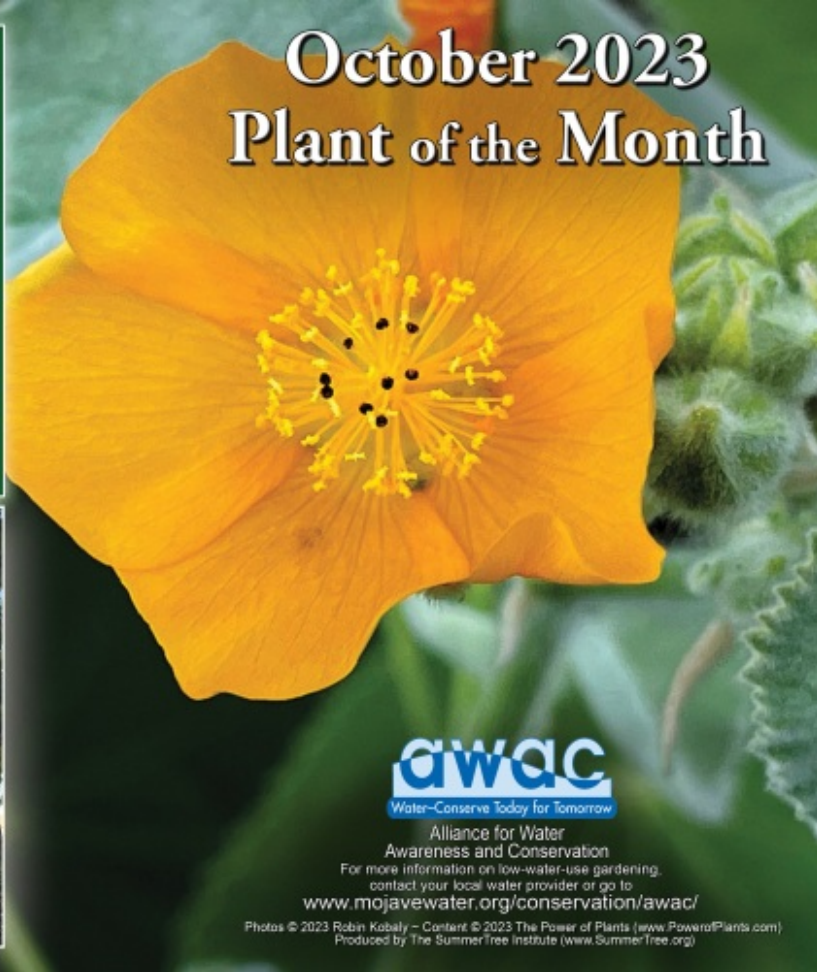
Native to: Southern California, SW U.S., Northern Mexico

Hardiness: Cold hardy to 20°F

Palmer's Indian Mallow has lush subtropical foliage and fast growth that belies its extreme tolerance for heat, drought, and poor soil. Soft, velvety, heart-shaped leaves cover this herbaceous plant, forming a silvery backdrop to its golden flowers which are most prolific in spring and summer, but can appear almost year-round. Its multi-parted, silky-haired fruits are used in dry flower arrangements. Happiest in well-draining soil with only occasional irrigation, and under full or reflected sun, it does appreciate light shade in the hottest inland deserts. Cage young plants against rabbit nibbling. After flowering, cut flower stems back to the first set of full leaves for a tidier shape. Protect from hard frosts, and trim back any frost-damaged tips. Place near seating areas or pathways to fully enjoy its soft texture.



# October 2023 Plant of the Month



**awac**  
Water-Conserve Today for Tomorrow

Alliance for Water  
Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water-use gardening,  
contact your local water provider or go to

[www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/](http://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/)

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