



SEPTEMBER 2023

May 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.

□ Save Water Now...It will Save you Later □

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Upcoming Events and Meetings:

SEPTEMBER

Board of Directors meetings:

- Regular Meeting -Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 PM
- Regular Meeting - Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30 PM

Committee meetings:

- Finance Committee -Wednesday, September 13 at 9:00AM
- Water Resources & Ops- Wednesday, September 13 at 10:30AM

Events:

- Water in the Desert Art EXPO-September 8-17 (see below)
- Hospitality Annual Seminar, September 19, Tuesday, 6:30PM-7PM
- Docent/Volunteer Training: September 22, Friday, 5PM-6PM
- Sand Bag Event: September 30, Saturday, 3PM-4PM (see below)

Mark Your Calendars for October:

- Compost, Mulch & Soil Amendments class: Thursday, October 12 @ 6PM

Annual Seminar

- Happening NOW: *Water in the Desert ART*
- JBWD Docent Training Meeting

- Native Plant Cuttings Propagation Class: Thursday, October 26 @ 6PM

To register email: kjradnch@gmail.com

Visit www.jbwd.com for agendas, Zoom links, and other info.



National Preparedness Month

...is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time; flash floods, earthquakes, wildfires, power outages, wind storms, and many others.

JBWD reminds all customers to be sure to keep their contact information up to date with the District Office

so that we may try to connect directly with you when the tap water stops flowing. Efforts to inform you of a water emergency may involve phone calls, emails, website postings, Public Service Announcements, door hangers--even knocking on doors if possible. Best efforts will be employed to bring you timely, accurate, and effective communications. So, stay connected and help us help you!

[PREPARE NOW--click here to follow this guide!](#)



Water for Emergencies

Tape this sheet to the inside of a closet or cupboard door for when you need it!

Take the time NOW to review and restock your emergency water supply. Store a minimum of one gallon per person per day for 3 days. Store more if possible. You'll need water for drinking, for preparing food, for hygiene, and for your pets.

- ▶ For emergency supply, commercially bottled water is recommended.
- ▶ If you are preparing your own containers, you can purchase food-grade water containers from camping supply stores.
- ▶ If you want to re-use containers, two-liter plastic soft drink bottles are a good choice.
- ▶ Don't use containers that have been used for milk or fruit juice.
- ▶ Don't use glass containers—they are heavy and may break.
- ▶ Clean the plastic containers with dishwashing soap and water and rinse well.
- ▶ Sanitize the bottles with a mix of 1 teaspoon unscented regular liquid bleach to 1 quart of water; swish the bottles, then rinse thoroughly.
- ▶ Fill to the top with tap water and tightly twist on the original cap—avoid touching the inside of the cap before putting it on.
- ▶ Write the date on the container. Store in a cool dark place. Do not store directly on concrete (leaching chemicals destroy plastic).
- ▶ The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends replacing water every six months (if not using commercially bottled water.) Observe / disinfect water in commercially packaged bottles if past their expiration date.
- ▶ If stored water is warm, cloudy, or has debris floating within, disinfect the stored water to prevent illness.

Extra Water Sources:

Use: Water heater water, water in water pipes, or ice cubes in freezer.

Don't Use: Water from toilet tanks or bowls, swimming pools or spas, or water beds.

Remember: If you don't know if your tap water is safe in a disaster, play it safe and disinfect it automatically until you've been reassured it is safe to drink by the authorities.

HOW TO DISINFECT WATER

#1 Boil water to make it safe.

This is the preferred method to assure that the water is safe to drink. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms that may be present. First, boil the water for one minute. Let it cool, then store in clean containers with covers.

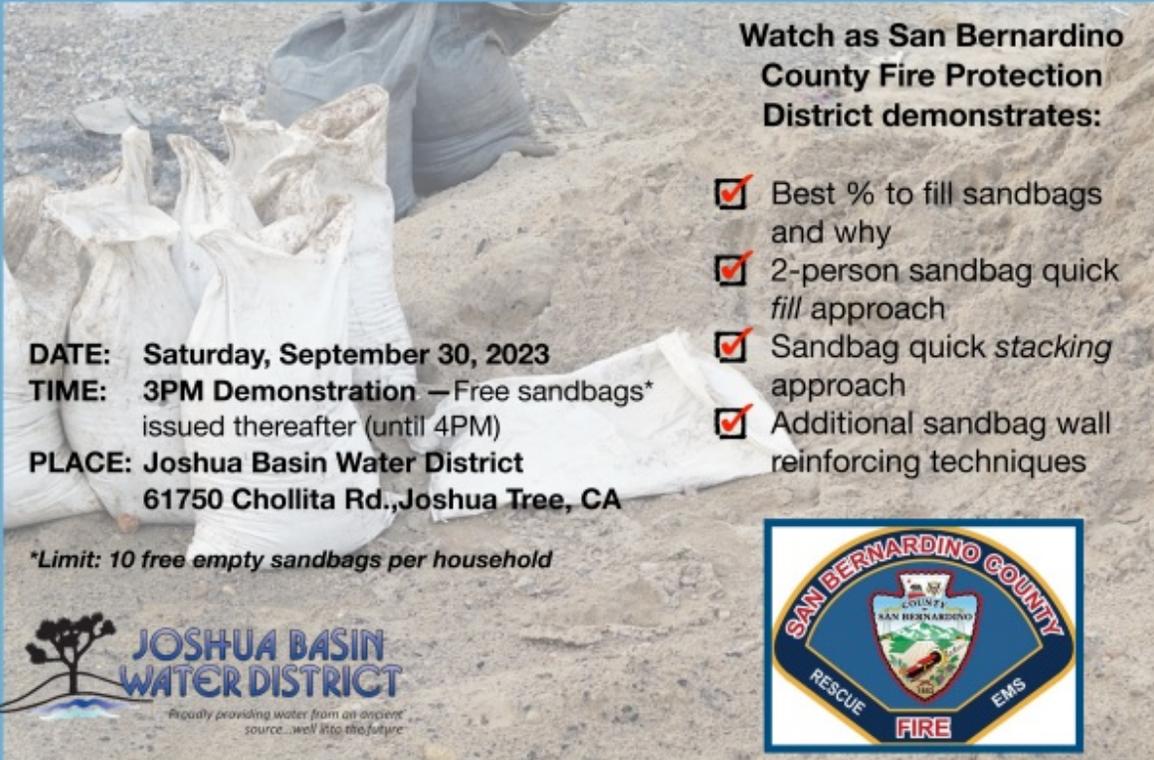
#2 Disinfect with bleach (use *fresh*, unscented, regular household bleach from a new bottle). Add 1/8 teaspoonful (8 drops) for each gallon of clear water, or 1/4 teaspoonful (16 drops) per gallon of cloudy water. Stir well. Let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. A chlorine-like taste and odor will result *at first*, indicating disinfection has taken place.

#3. Water Disinfection tablets may be used by following the manufacturer's instructions.

September is National Emergency Preparedness month.

Protect your family and property against unpredictable desert flash flood damage!

Come join us for FREE SANDBAGS and smart "how to" tips all at once!



Watch as San Bernardino County Fire Protection District demonstrates:

- ☑ Best % to fill sandbags and why
- ☑ 2-person sandbag quick fill approach
- ☑ Sandbag quick *stacking* approach
- ☑ Additional sandbag wall reinforcing techniques

DATE: Saturday, September 30, 2023
TIME: 3PM Demonstration — Free sandbags* issued thereafter (until 4PM)
PLACE: Joshua Basin Water District
61750 Chollita Rd., Joshua Tree, CA

**Limit: 10 free empty sandbags per household*





STORM WATER

Preparedness Class

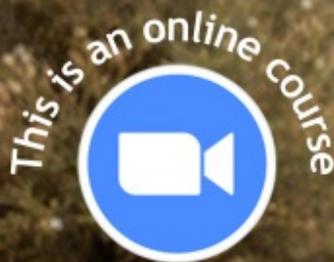
Learn life saving information that can save your property and loved ones in this one-hour online course for the whole family.

This course will cover:

- ✓ Pollutants carried by storm
- ✓ Unseen dangers
- ✓ Storm water erosion
- ✓ Health Issues
- ✓ Preventative solutions

September 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Register Now



www.mojavewater.org 



760-218-2822 



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

"LIHWAP DAY 1-2-3" Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

JBWD hosted not one, but three San Bernardino County sponsored *Low Income*



CURIOUS MINDS WANT

Household Water Assistance Program days (June-July-August). The final numbers are in:

- 51 customers received financial assistance
- the lowest aid awarded was \$269.00
- the highest aid awarded was \$6,975.23
- the total amount awarded over the three assistance days came to \$47,827.80

Note: Contact JBWD's Customer Service representatives for payment plans before your water bills become unmanageable: 760-366-8438.

LCMS ORIENTATION WATER EDUCATION



Photo Caption: JBWD's Human Resources and Risk Generalist, Audriana Sheehan, spent orientation day at La Contenta Middle School educating students and parents on *Careers in Water*, the *Importance of Proper Hydration for Good Health & Good Grades*, along with *Water for Emergencies* critical information.

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 sample:

Q: How does JBWD determine if a major pipe break necessitates a public "boil order" alert?

A: There are absolute Public Health and Safety guidelines that water providers must follow when a pipeline breaks--and can result in declaring a tap water "boil order" for public safety if:

1) the pipeline *cannot* be isolated during repairs (aka: "controlling" the outage of water flow between two points while maintaining some pressure in the lines

2) a reservoir/water tank runs too low or runs out of water when feeding the broken pipeline

3) all pressure is lost in the water system due to an uncontrollable massive leak

4) "intrusion" of contaminants is suspected, whether or not confirmed (sometimes this results in what is called a *precautionary boil order*)

ATTENTION ALL OWNERS AND MANAGERS IN THE
Hospitality Industry

Join us for a meeting to help you \$tretch your water dollar\$!



Are you an owner / manager of a short-term or long-term rental? Are you looking at ways of lowering your water bills, reduce plumbing expenses, and protect your septic systems?

Then join us, Tuesday, September 19th, 6PM-6:30PM for a ZOOM informational meeting.

It's FREE, but you must pre-register by email to: kjradnich@gmail.com to receive your ZOOM link invitation. Simply write "Hospitality" in the subject line, and provide your name and phone number to be

INDOOR TIPS:

- Minimizing septic issues
- Evaporative cooler efficiency
- Bathroom tips
- Kitchen water savers

OUTDOOR TIPS:

- Pools, hot tubs, fresh-air showers, and cowboy tubs
- Landscape irrigation tips
- Winterizing
- Rain harvesting systems

ALSO:

- How your occupants can gain real time direct information in the event of a major disaster impacting the tap water
- What should be stored on site for tenants for emergency water situations

A FREE EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Gala Awards Event is Friday, September 8, 2023 from 5PM-8PM. "Water in the Desert" will be open for public viewing through Sunday, September 17, during regular gallery hours.

The Gallery is located at 58325 CA-62, Yucca Valley, CA 92252

GREATER JOSHUA TREE

ART EXPO

ART EXPO

SEP
8-17
2023

WATER IN
THE DESERT
— PRESERVING
OUR OASIS

JURIED ART
COMPETITION



The Mojave Water Agency, a state water supplier for many desert regional water providers, has partnered with the Hi-Desert Cultural Center's flagship art gallery in Greater Joshua Tree to launch a premier Art Expo focusing on *Water In The Desert—Preserving Our Oasis*.

With water presenting itself as the new California "gold," this large juried exhibition invites all mediums of visual art expressions to highlight the overarching message that water is life—creating inspiration and dialogue that captures the plenishing life-giving force water offers for our quality of living.

**JURIED COMPETITION: 3 CATEGORIES
\$500 1ST PRIZE EACH CATEGORY**

CALL FOR ART: JUN 15-AUG 18, 2023

EXHIBITION OPENING GALA: SEP 8, 2023

PUBLIC DISPLAY: SEP 8-17, 2023



JTGOCA.COM

JOSHUA TREE
GALLERY



OF CONTEMPORARY ART





DOCENT TRAINING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 5-6PM at JBWD
Mark your calendars!

Come one, come all--new and returning Volunteer Docents are welcome to this seasonal training at the District Office as we ramp-up for our fall season.

Highlights of this training meeting will include pest fighting plants--alone, or for companion gardening. Volunteers trained in wildcrafting are welcome to bring any native plant seeds recently collected.

Of note: Cat Claw Acacia seeds (cleaned) are especially in need for our on-going native plant sales.

We'll also cover creating a drought hardy four-variety lavender plant garden, complete with their historic and modern day uses.

Please RSVP to: kjradnich@gmail.com with your name, email and phone number.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Did you know? Storm wind and water erosion over the years can change the depth of hidden underground gas, power, phone and water lines. Never *assume* it is safe to dig--even with a hand shovel! Loss of life and property is at stake...

[Click here before you dig to learn more!](#)

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Recent Board Action Items of Note:

August's Board Action Items were relatively routine in nature. However, the Agenda item: "22/23 BAD DEBT WRITE-OFF OF \$34,791" was heavily discussed before obtaining a 5-0 vote in favor of writing off the bad debt.

Background:

Annually JBWD encounters customers who abandon their accounts after their water bills become excessive. As this trend began to grow in the past, JBWD restructured many of their payment policies to discourage this behavior. After all, as a "community-owned Water District", unpaid balances burden the rest of JBWD's customer base. While \$34,791 is a sizable sum, it is representative of a significant reduction in bad customer debts from prior comparative years since the implementation of the recent new policies.

TROPICAL STORM HILARY REPORT

While weather forecasting is considered a science, it still remains a "best guess" when competing against Mother Nature. That being said, in comparison to communities in the low desert and elsewhere, the Morongo Basin was spared from anticipated storm damage of historic magnitudes.



Regardless, as flood water is a force to reckon with in regards to its ability to carve out the Grand Canyon, move mountains, as well as, undermine our critical water pipeline

infrastructure, JBWD took preparation for this storm seriously.

All District personnel were on stand-by throughout the storm weekend, with all repair materials and equipment strategically positioned. Management was in direct contact before, during and after the storm period with the county's Office of Emergency Services, giving and receiving updates to better mitigate any needed emergency responses.

Keep in mind: With an El Niño right around the corner, more rains are in the forecast in the months ahead. Prepare now for excessive water events (see our Sandbag event flyer and Storm Water class opportunity in this newsletter).

Photo Caption:

The District Office is located at one of the lowest points in town where three collective storm water streams move through and combine to flood the District Office and the Water Wise Demonstration Garden. Our Operations team attempted a new technique to preemptively block anticipated flood waters that run through our parking lot--and it worked--saving us thousands of dollars in post monsoonal flood water damage repairs!

SEPTEMBER FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH:

"Water for Emergencies"

What can you do if a major water emergency occurs and the stores have run out of bottled water? Stop by our Farmers' Market booth Saturdays (8AM-1PM) in September and check out your options. One size does not fit all, and so it goes with choices in what you can do to store emergency water. We'll help you get started now. The JBWD Market Booth is located on the west end of the Market on Turtle Island in the heart of town.



Photo Caption: All crews responded to a major water feed-line break at Well 14 that was located 30 feet deep! The repairs began at 9AM on August 6, and concluded at 4AM on August 7. Controlled shut-downs interrupted water service to a few customers, and impacted water pressure to many others.

It was calculated that 920,000 gallons of water leaked (most went back to the aquifer) with 240 gallons of water used to flush the pipe before reactivating the water line.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (C.I.R.P.)

JBWD directs three teams of field crew whose main focus is one of the following: *Distribution* (existing infrastructure maintenance), *Production* (water quality distribution), or *Capital Improvement and Replacement* (C.I.R.P: new pipe and new infrastructure installation).

All team members cross train to help with large water emergencies. The following is a snapshot of July, an average month of what our teams were up to:

Distribution:

- replaced 11 service lines from plastic poly pipe to copper pipe
- installed a new CL2 (chlorine) analyzer for Well 10

- rebuilt a water sample station located at Copper Mountain College
- responded to 33 leaks

Production:

- replaced a motor and seal at the E-1 Booster Station
- staged and engaged an emergency generator at the F Booster Station due to a malfunction
- completed compliance training of staff for state mandate reporting requirements

C.I.R.P.:

- door hangars hung for residents' notifications for the Tilford Stage 2 upcoming project
- began potholing/investigating the 6,600 foot run for the Tilford 2 project
- graded and de-brushed Tilford 2 area pipe install site
- pre bolted fittings for the Tilford 2 installations
- backfilled the D1-1 area after passing inspections from So. Cal Edison

In addition they...

- performed 346 customer service orders
- tested four "fire flows" to ensure fire protection safety
- responded to 90 "Dig Alert" requests
- installed nine new service lines
- installed/upgraded/replaced 102 meters
- inspected/repaired eight fire hydrants
- exercised 15 water valves (to ensure serviceability)

DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

September Watering Schedule: Before 9:00 AM and after 6:00 PM

Reduce your water bill during peak temperatures by cutting just one watering day per week out of your daily watering schedule. This can lower your water use by as much as 10 to 15 percent.

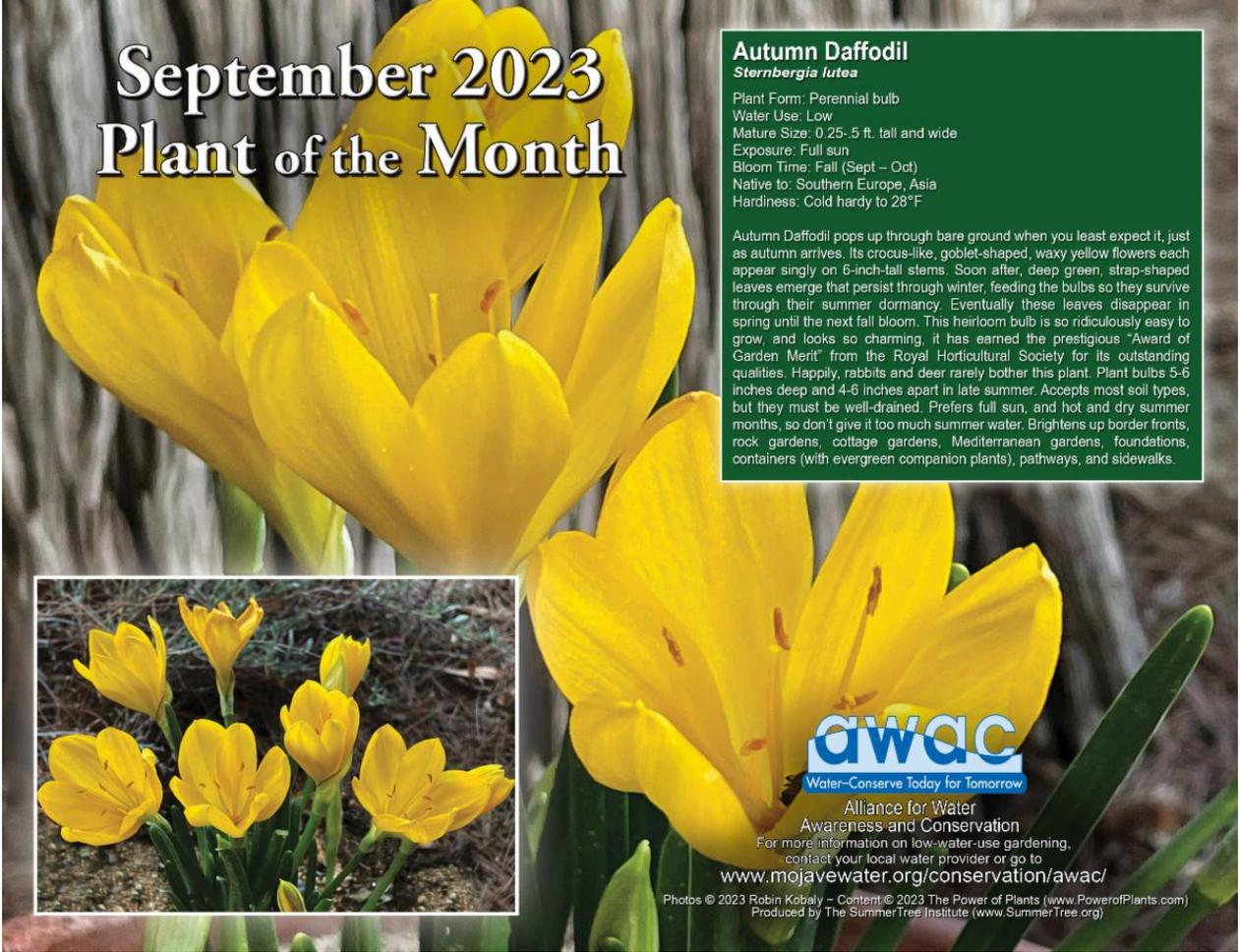
THIS MONTH IN YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

- Plant native and drought-tolerant plants; warm soil helps new plants develop deep roots long before the coming summer, reducing water needs during new plants' entire two-to-three-year establishment period
- Fall opportunity to transplant Joshua Trees and yuccas from late September to October
- Reduce water to cacti and succulents to prepare them for winter rest and protect against frost damage
- Protect against wildfire as Santa Ana winds start; prune dead limbs, clean away brush, and clean leaves from gutters

HISTORIC USES OF: AUTUMN DAFFODIL *aka: Sternbergia lutea*

- This species hails from Palestine, Syria and Persia and is one of several bulb species that may have been the "lilies of the fields" mentioned in the Bible.
- Daffodils contain several chemical compounds known as alkaloids. These make them toxic if ingested, which is great for keeping deer away but harmful to humans, dogs, and cats.
- If any part of the plant is consumed in large amounts, it can lead to shaking, nausea, vomiting, and even death. Some people also experience skin irritation after handling bulbs or plants.
- However, in folk medicine traditions around the world, they've been used as emetics, analgesics for headaches, poultices for skin complaints, and as a cancer treatment.
- Fast forward to modern times: the plants contain a compound known as galantamine. This alkaloid shows promise for use in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

September 2023 Plant of the Month



Autumn Daffodil

Sternbergia lutea

Plant Form: Perennial bulb
Water Use: Low
Mature Size: 0.25-5 ft. tall and wide
Exposure: Full sun
Bloom Time: Fall (Sept – Oct)
Native to: Southern Europe, Asia
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 28°F

Autumn Daffodil pops up through bare ground when you least expect it, just as autumn arrives. Its crocus-like, goblet-shaped, waxy yellow flowers each appear singly on 6-inch-tall stems. Soon after, deep green, strap-shaped leaves emerge that persist through winter, feeding the bulbs so they survive through their summer dormancy. Eventually these leaves disappear in spring until the next fall bloom. This heirloom bulb is so ridiculously easy to grow, and looks so charming, it has earned the prestigious "Award of Garden Merit" from the Royal Horticultural Society for its outstanding qualities. Happily, rabbits and deer rarely bother this plant. Plant bulbs 5-6 inches deep and 4-6 inches apart in late summer. Accepts most soil types, but they must be well-drained. Prefers full sun, and hot and dry summer months, so don't give it too much summer water. Brightens up border fronts, rock gardens, cottage gardens, Mediterranean gardens, foundations, containers (with evergreen companion plants), pathways, and sidewalks.



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/

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Joshua Basin Water District
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