

# THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

May 2017

## 9 Water-Conserving Tips for Summer Gardening: *To keep your grass or your garden alive during the summer without driving your water bill to new heights, follow these tips.*

- 1. Choose the Right Tool:** A standard garden hose and nozzle is the least efficient means of applying water to plants because so much water is lost as mist, runoff and evaporation. Use a sprinkler wand.
- 2. Don't Over-Water:** Perennial plants and shrubs will need from 1 inch to 2 inches a week. There's no neat rule for watering annuals, so your best guide is always the plant tag (the small spear-shaped plastic tag that came with the plant when you bought it). It will tell you the sun, soil, pH and water requirements. When in doubt, keep the plant's soil lightly moist and see how it responds. If conditions are especially hot and windy where you are, keep a careful eye out for wilting. If you see the signs, add water to the soil, but don't overcompensate by drowning the plant. Over-watering is just as bad as under-watering; it leads to root rot and soil compaction that robs the roots of air.
- 3. Don't Waste Water:** Don't soak the plant's foliage; it does little good. And don't apply water outside a shrub's or a perennial's root zone. A shrub's root zone is roughly 1 to 3 times the diameter of its canopy, and keeping the water inside this radius will allow it to soak down to where the plant's roots can reach it. If you see water puddling or running off, stop; let the water soak in before resuming. Likewise, water that runs off your lawn or off the top of a flower bed onto paved surfaces does no good. The same applies to running lawn sprinklers: Water your lawn, not the side of your house or the driveway.
- 4. Make Sure Mulch Doesn't Crust Over:** Mulch is great for holding in moisture and keeping the base of plants cool. However, a thick layer of mulch can also form a crust that prevents water from soaking in. Break up crusted mulch with a rake to allow water in.
- 5. Test for Moisture :** You can buy a tool to gauge your soil's moisture level at a nursery or through a horticultural supply catalog. But if you don't have one, a large straight blade screwdriver is a good standby. Poke it into the soil; the drier the soil, the more resistance you'll meet.
- 6. If You Can, Water in the Morning:** If you water while it's (relatively) cool outside, water can soak in before it evaporates on the surface. And if you do it in the morning, that helps the plant to take up the water during the day. Watering at dusk or even during early evening is OK, but you run the risk of fungus formation, because these organisms love dark and damp places. Plus, the darkness can make it hard to see what you're doing (and, as noted, precision counts even when watering your plants).
- 7. Focus on the Front:** The front of the house plays the greatest role in determining its curb appeal and value. If you're worried about conserving water, or find yourself under water restrictions, worry about the front lawn first and let the rest of the lawn take care of itself.
- 8. Use Cool Water:** Don't use a hose that's been coiled up, filled with water and sitting in the sun all day. That coiled hose can act like a water heater, and hot water stresses sensitive plants. Store your hose in the shade. If you can't, at least run out the heated water before giving your plants a drink.
- 9. Water at Widely Spaced Intervals:** With your lawn and perennials, it's better to give them larger amounts of water at longer intervals than it is to apply small amounts of water frequently. That's because shallow watering encourages shallow rooting. In very hot weather, a ballpark range for watering is every other day for perennials and every three to four days for shrubs. Water annuals and container plants as needed. Since container plants can't draw moisture from surrounding soil, it's crucial that their soil remain moist (but not wet).

AS ALWAYS.....CONSERVE, CONSERVE, CONSERVE!!

## In This Issue

- Page 1: Water  
Conserving Tips  
for Gardening
- Page 2: Drought Stage 1
- Page 2: LRSPC Notes
- Page 2: Annual  
Shareholder  
Meeting
- Page 3: General Manager's  
Report
- Page 3: April Usage
- Page 4: Presidents  
Message
- Page 4: Contact  
Information





# General Manager's Report

Hi Shareholders,

We are sure having a great spring, with some rain to help with our beetle /tree problem. The ground is saturated and the trees can gain strength to fight off infestation. If you plan on treating your trees, check with your pest control company to see if this is good time to inject them.

## Water Supply

Our water supply has never looked better. Well 3, our main water producer is at 160 ft. above the pump, which is higher than it's been in many years. We will have enough water to supply ourselves for the rest of the year, even if CCWD has trouble and can't sell us water.

## April Usage

Water usage for April was lower than last year by 9%. Here is the comparison by year:

April

2013 3,233,000 million gallons

2014 3,393,000

2015 2,269,000

2016 2,860,000

2017 2,603,000

In 2017 we reduced usage by 630,000 gallons which is a 19% Savings over 2013 usage.

## Drought

At the May Board meeting we reduced our drought restrictions from Stage 2 to Stage 1. Stage 1 of our Drought Action Plan is a voluntary effort to conserve water 10% from 2013 usage. There are no restrictions except the **watering of forest trees is not allowed, and no watering on Mondays.**

## Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is June 3. Please plan on attending. We will be presenting information on the progress of our USDA loan and infrastructure improvement project.

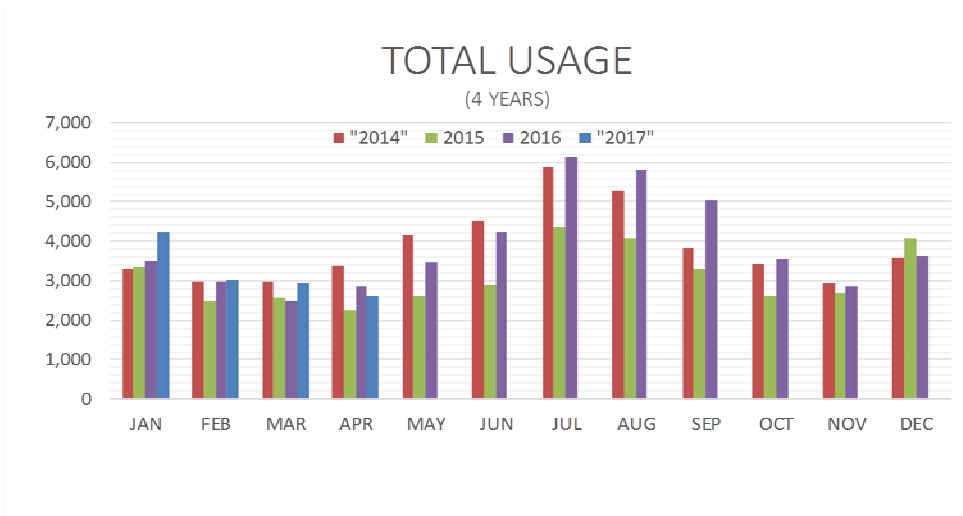
That's all for now.

Dave

David Hicks  
General Manager  
Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Co.  
P.O.Box 6015, Arnold, CA 95223  
Ph: 209-795-7025



## April Usage Chart



**Free Car Wash!!!**

(offer good while supply lasts.....)

**Conservation Still Counts!**

To celebrate the end of a very long drought, and to encourage our Shareholders to continue "good business practices" of conservation, the Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company is offering free car wash tokens to be used at Sequoia Carwash in Arnold (across from Big Trees Market). You need only to visit our office at 1011 Blagen Rd. (next to the Arnold Post Office) Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm to pick them up.

Limit 5 tokens per household. ID required.



**Have an idea?**

The Bubbler is published to keep Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company shareholders informed about issues and upcoming events. The Bubbler is a Monthly Publication and is typically published AFTER our regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. If you would like to submit an article or suggest ideas for improvement, please contact : Pam Bowman pbowman@blsmwc.com

**Contact Us**

**Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company**  
1011 Blagen Road  
P.O. Box 6015  
Arnold, CA 95223

Tel (209) 795-7025  
Fax (209) 795-7019

Visit us on the web at [www.blsmwc.com](http://www.blsmwc.com)  
For water emergencies:  
(209) 795-7030

**Presidents Report**

As we move into summer, I would like to stress once more for the record...CONSERVATION!!!

I will keep this short and sweet as we are nearing our Annual 2017 Shareholder Meeting on June 3rd. There is a plethora of information to share with you, and I hope to see you there! The meeting will begin promptly at 8:30 am. If you cannot get your ballot in the mail to us to be received by May 26th, you can bring them to the meeting . We encourage all of you to get those in as we will have items to vote on.

Spring has left us with abundant water, and we have moved into Drought Stage 1. Please check our website often for updates and information. Remember....in any stage there is NO watering of Forest Trees!! Mother Nature has taken care of this for us all.

I wish you all an enjoyable Memorial Day weekend.....

Bob Maginnis  
BLSMWC  
Board President