

DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

www.donalawater.org

JUNE 2018

LONG RANGE FORECAST

Our District has seen an extended period of dry weather over the winter and now into spring. We have had a few showers over the last several weeks, but the long-range forecast is for warmer and continued dry weather, potentially through August, when we hope to see the return of the summer monsoonal rains. The National Drought Mitigation Center in cooperation with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Center (NOAC) puts out a drought map weekly. El Paso County is currently considered in moderate drought, but the further south, and west, in the State you go, the drier it gets. Portions of Colorado are already under the classification of Exceptional Drought, the highest classification they have. The attached link will take you to the National Drought Mitigation Center's Map of Colorado. This map is updated weekly. You may find the link at our website as well.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CO>

As the District enters the summer irrigation season, it is important to remember that the District has implemented the annual limitations on lawn irrigation to 3 days per week. These limits began on Memorial Day and will be in effect until Labor Day, September 3rd. Even in the hottest, and driest of times, your lawn will remain alive, but it may be into "self-preservation" mode and turn yellow/brown. This is your grass going dormant until it receives adequate moisture to revive itself. If you have questions about lawn irrigation, please give the office a call.

CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING

Now that good weather is here, many residents are undertaking either construction projects, or landscaping projects. It is very important that if you are considering work that requires digging into your yard, or even modifying your sprinkler system, you should call 811 for a locate of all the underground utilities on your property. Every digging job requires a call – even for small projects like planting trees and shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself, or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs. When you contact 811 (that's the actual number to call), you will be asked for the property address, along with additional information which will assist them in determining who needs to be contacted. As a utility company, Donala is considered a Tier 2 utility and as such, you will be provided with a list of organizations that you will need to contact for the actual locates. Donala will provide you with a service map of your property, showing the locations of our utilities, including your water and sewer service lines, at no charge. A good rule of thumb is to call 811 if you are going to dig more than 12" deep on your property. It is much better to be safe and have them located. You would be surprised at what could be just under the surface: phone lines, cable lines, gas lines, electric lines and Donala's water and sewer lines. While most utilities can be found in the easement on your property, usually the side and back yards, don't assume that you know where the utilities really are. For additional information, go to the 811 website which be found at www.colorado811.org

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2018 OFFICERS

At the May Board meeting, outgoing Board President Dave Powell, swore in the three board members who were elected. Returning Board Members, Bob Denny and Dennis Snyder, joined newcomer Wayne Vanderschuere in taking the oath of office. The Board, and staff, acknowledged, and thanked Mr. Powell for his eight years of service on the Donala Board of Directors. Mr. Powell then vacated his seat and the election of officers was next on the agenda. Your new Board President is Ken Judd; Vice-President is Bob Denny and Ed Houle is the new Secretary/Treasurer.

PLANTS FOR SUSTANABLE LANDSCAPES

We often receive questions about what types of plants grow best in the Gleneagle area. The large home improvement stores are flush with green and colorful flowers and plants. For maximum gardening success, as well as water conservation, take a little time to consider plants that are well adapted to our region, and save some money and effort in the long run.

There are several items to consider when choosing a plant for the Donala region: altitude, exposure (how much sun/shade), wind tolerance, height/width and water needs. Our neighborhood, sitting at roughly 7,000 feet above sea level, is characterized by short growing seasons, intense sunshine and high winds, all of which can limit the growth and bloom production. Plants that do well at lower elevations of Colorado often do not do well at our altitude.

Another thing to consider when selecting a plant is its ultimate height and width. Don't make the mistake of thinking you can keep a large plant in bounds by pruning. A plant will grow to the size it is genetically destined to be and trying to keep it small by pruning only generates work for you and destroys the natural shape of the plant. Choose plants that are appropriately sized for the space available and try to visualize what the plant will look like when it is mature and fully grown.

WE'RE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND WE'RE HERE TO HELP

You may not realize it, but the Donala Water and Sanitation District is a form of local government that has been established under the provisions of Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 32. We have essentially two areas of responsibility; provide water service and treat waste water. While we are a utility provider, we understand the value of your home and how the appearance of your landscape impacts that value. The staff of the District is here to provide you with the knowledge, and resources, that we have gathered over the years. Please visit our webpage at www.donalawater.org, or give us a call at 719-488-3603. If we don't have the answer immediately available, we'll find out the answer(s) and give you a call right back.

Your General Manager

