

APRIL 2021

# PINERY PIPELINE



*From your board of directors*

Did you realize that most of Colorado has been in severe to extreme drought for a good portion of the last 12 months? Western Colorado has been in a very serious drought for months to years, depending upon the region. As of March 11, 2021, 56% of the state is in severe to extreme drought. This percentage includes Douglas County. Three months ago, we were at 76%. With the recent snows we will see this come down. The reason it has been so severe, is the very dry/hot summer of 2020 and the lack of good moisture. Since the ground is so dry, it takes so long to recharge the soil moisture. Being a forester and landscape guy, I always hope for those spring snows to bring us into another planting and growing season.

With this in mind, I want to point out some of the programs and activities our District is involved in to promote efficient watering and landscaping. In last month's Pipeline we talked about some of them, GARDEN IN A BOX and SLOW THE FLOW. You can find more information about these programs on the next page or on the district website: <https://pinerywater.com/incentives-and-rebates/>.

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly held Board Meetings at 6:00pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Board Meetings will still be held digitally at 6:00pm on Wednesday, April 21, 2021

(\*please see meeting notice for information on joining the meeting by internet.)

Wednesday, May 19, 2021



Picture from: <https://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/water-wise-xeriscape/1901-xeriscape-basics/>

As we are planning for spring in our yards and gardens, I want to put a plug in for Xeriscape. This is a term that has been coined over the last 20-30 years by water suppliers and the green industry. The word xeriscape (zer-i-scape), is derived from the Greek "xeros", meaning "dry" and scape, meaning the "pattern" of landscape. It DOES NOT MEAN Zero Scape, as in just rocks and cactus. The whole concept is to promote water conservation, efficiency, and the right plants in the right place for our semi-arid/soil poor region. I direct your attention to sources like Denver Water and Colorado State University Extension for more information on the Xeriscape concept and the plants recommended (<https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/>).

As mentioned earlier, go to our website; click on the Water Efficiency tab for more information. When you go to the Water Efficiency section, you will see mention of our Water Efficiency Task Force (WETF). Last year (the Zoom Year) our WETF did not meet mainly due to all the restrictions and the need for our staff to stay focused on the day-to-day operations with all these restrictions. We now have a task force with several new members ready to go for 2021, virtually and hopefully very soon, in person. One of the first tasks at hand is to give input on a proposed Drought Response Plan that our District will be considering. The Task Force is made up of seven members, all owners/customers in our District. You will hear more about the efforts of this group as we move along. Thank you members for your time, knowledge, and input.



**Jim McGannon,**  
**Director of Pinery Water and**  
**Wastewater District Board of Directors**

## HYDRANT FLUSHING

Crews will be flushing beginning in March, Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM with plans to wrap up by May 15. For questions or concerns, please call the District office at 303-841-2797 or email us at [info@pinerywater.com](mailto:info@pinerywater.com).



## SPRING LAWN CARE

The warmer weather makes most people eager to get outside and work on their lawn to make sure their lawn looks the best. Being too eager could cause you some damage though. When it comes to spring lawn care you want to take it easy on your lawn. Take a look at the spring lawn care list below to get your lawn looking its best for summer.



### **Spring Lawn Care Checklist:**

- Wait until the soil dries out before you start working in your yard.
- Sharpen your lawn mower blades and change the oil.
- Help the snow melt by spreading piles.
- Have your soil tested if it has been more than three years.
- Mow low to remove the dead grass tops.
- Aerate your lawn if it did not get done in the fall.
- Over seed bare spots.
- Apply crabgrass preventer (pre-emergence) around Easter.
- Light nitrogen fertilizer application around Memorial Day.
- Wait to water your lawn until late spring/early summer.

Read more from original site: [Spring Lawn Care & Maintenance Tips http://www.better-lawn-care.com/spring-lawn-care.html#ixzz5jllxKcCX](http://www.better-lawn-care.com/spring-lawn-care.html#ixzz5jllxKcCX)

## Spring Sprinkler Checks

With spring upon us we will want to get our irrigation systems going and start watering. You may want to wait until our last freeze passes so that you do not do any costly damage. Once the last freeze is over with, go over these few important steps to help you eliminate damage. You may also want to contact an irrigation specialist to look over your system in addition.

### Spring Start-Up Checklist

- Open the system main water valve slowly to allow pipes to fill with water gradually.
- Verify the proper operation of each station valve by manually activating all zones from the controller.
- Walk through each station on the controller, checking for proper operation of the zone. Check for proper operating pressure (low pressure indicates a line break or missing sprinkler), proper rotation and adjustment of sprinkler heads, and adequate coverage. Check and clean filters on poorly performing sprinklers. Adjust heads to grade as necessary.
- Reprogram the controller for automatic watering. Replace the controller back-up battery if necessary.
- Uncover and clean the system weather sensor, if applicable.

Read more from original site: <https://www.hunterindustries.com/spring-start-checklist>

## GARDEN IN A BOX | PLANT A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Maybe you participated in last year's Garden in a Box program. Or maybe you've decided that this is the year you'll finally get your yard in shape – but how can you get the gorgeous, colorful garden you've always wanted without paying the professional price tag and doubling your water bill? Easy. With just a click, you can order a xeric (low-water) garden kit that's ready to pick up and plant in May. These pre-designed kits are tailored to Colorado soil, and the simple plant-by-number maps take the guesswork out of buying and planting. Plus, the garden kits can help you save around 1,000 gallons of water compared to a traditional grass lawn (not to mention savings on your water bill). There's a Garden in A Box to fit your budget. **Gardens sell out quickly** - visit [ResourceCentral.org/Gardens](http://ResourceCentral.org/Gardens) and receive \$25 discount for being a Pinery Water and Wastewater District customer. Order your water-wise Garden in A Box today! **If you have any questions or want more information about Garden in a Box, go to [ResourceCentral.org/Gardens](http://ResourceCentral.org/Gardens) or call 303-999-3820 x 222**



## SLOW THE FLOW – SOLVE YOUR SPRINKLERS

Again this year, the Pinery Water District and Resource Central are teaming up to provide a free sprinkler consultation to our customers. Resource Central technicians will run a few tests to check your sprinklers' efficiency and diagnose any problems your system might have. At the end of your consultation, which takes about 75 minutes, you will receive a customized watering schedule designed to reduce water usage and keep your lawn healthy and beautiful all summer long! **Simply call (303) 999-3824 or sign up at [ResourceCentral.org/Sprinklers](http://ResourceCentral.org/Sprinklers). Stay green, save blue.**

