

# Today

AUGUST 2013



## City of Roseville Environmental Utilities

 WATER

 WASTEWATER

 RECYCLED WATER

 STORMWATER

 SOLID WASTE

## Are We in a Drought?



“Maybe,” is the best answer we can offer at this time. After the driest January through April on record and a May snowpack at only 17 percent of normal water content, drought seems certain. Luckily, however, drought is not a one-year event. It generally takes two or more years of less-than-normal precipitation to create a drought. We’re receiving 75 percent of our normal water allocation this year, but another dry year could spell trouble. On the other hand, ample rain and snow this fall and winter could pull us out of the woods—for now.

Regardless of what the coming fall and winter brings, a future drought is

inevitable. “We live in an arid region that has experienced eight multiyear droughts (totaling 26 years) in the last 100 years,” said Jim Mulligan, Roseville’s Interim Water Utility Manager. “So it’s not a question of if we’ll have another drought, only when it will come and how bad it will be.”

While no one can prevent drought, each of us can prepare by investing in indoor and outdoor water-efficiency measures now—before a drought drives up demand and prices—can lower your water bill today and get you ready for tomorrow. For steps you can take to prepare for a drought, visit [roseville.ca.us/savewater](http://roseville.ca.us/savewater).

## UEC Wins State Award



The Utility Exploration Center’s Planet Protectors school tour program was one of six California museums to win the 2013 Superintendent’s Awards for Excellence in Museum Education. This prestigious award, a joint project of the California Association of Museums (CAM) and the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, recognizes the outstanding achievements in California museum programs that serve K-12 students and/or educators.

## You Can Take “Wash Car” Off Your Chores List

You can mark one item off your to-do list forever. Driveway car washes are not the best way to get vehicles clean. They waste water and send dirty, soapy water directly into our creeks, disturbing the habitat of fish, plants, and wildlife.

Commercial car washes do things differently. They recycle water for as long as they can and send dirty water into the sanitary sewer system where it is treated before being recycled for irrigation or released into creeks.

So the next time someone asks you to wash the car, you can simply smile, head to the nearest car wash, and relax while someone else does the work.

### To-Do List

1. Mow lawn
2. Pull Weeds
- ~~3. Wash Car~~
4. Walk dog



### Get Social With Us!

 Friend us on Facebook:  
[RosevilleUtilities](https://www.facebook.com/RosevilleUtilities)

[www.roseville.ca.us/eu](http://www.roseville.ca.us/eu)

# Pest and Plant of the Month

## Yellow Jackets



Though it's little consolation for anyone who's been stung, yellow jackets are beneficial insects that kill large numbers of flies, caterpillars, and bugs that feed on garden plants. Sometimes called "meat bees" because of their fondness for protein,

they also love sugar and will often climb into soft drink cans and surprise the unsuspecting sipper with a nasty sting. Yellow jackets live in large colonies and attack in numbers, stinging repeatedly, especially when nests are disturbed.

### Management measures you can take include:

- Remove the attraction of food or sugary drinks. When outside, keep food completely covered.
- Place commercially sold lure traps or homemade soap and water traps around your property, well away from patios and play areas, to help reduce the number of scavenging wasps.
- If you see or suspect a wasp nest on your property, consider hiring a certified pest control professional.

For more information on identifying and controlling yellow jackets, download the fact sheet at [OurWaterOurWorld.org](http://OurWaterOurWorld.org) and check out the "For More Information" section for additional resources.

## Penstemon Margarita BOP



This natural hybrid got its start at the bottom of the porch (BOP) of Las Pilitas Nursery and has grown to be a popular favorite among water-wise plant lovers. Selected as a UC Davis Arboretum All Star for its rugged reliability, this

colorful California native requires very little water and attracts bees, hummingbirds and butterflies. It grows to about two feet high and three feet across and will delight you with pink to purple-violet blooms. Just cut back the spent flower stalks for spring through summer color. download the fact sheet at [OurWaterOurWorld.org](http://OurWaterOurWorld.org) and check out the "For More Information" section for additional resources.

**New Green Living Guide...**The 2013-2014 Green Living Guide is rolling off the presses. Find out about exciting events, workshops and classes for the whole family at the Utility Exploration Center. Download your copy from [roseville.ca.us/explore](http://roseville.ca.us/explore).

## Money-Saving Tips for Back-to-School Shopping

**When you shop for school supplies this year, consider using the experience as an opportunity to teach children how to save money, conserve resources, and reduce waste with these simple tips...**

### 1. Start by going through last year's supplies to see what can be used again.

Consider rewarding your children for using items like backpacks until they wear out.

### 2. As you shop, avoid anything marked as "disposable." You pay extra for throw-away convenience and add unnecessary waste to the landfill.

### 3. Pay attention to product packaging, which makes up about 30 percent of municipal waste. Ways to reduce packaging waste include:

- Choose a reusable lunch bag, water bottle, containers, and utensils. (The UEC offers an affordable zero waste lunch kit for sale.)
- Skip single-serving items, like drink boxes and snack packs. Instead buy larger sizes and repackage in reusable containers.
- Buy school supplies in bulk and divide among family and friends.

### 4. Buy products made from recycled or renewable ingredients. By doing so, you help create a market for recycled products, which will lead to lower prices and greater selection.

### 5. Shop at consignment stores and thrift shops. To save on gently worn children's clothing and retro-chic fashions for teens.

For more tips on reducing and reusing, visit [roseville.ca.us/beyondrecycling](http://roseville.ca.us/beyondrecycling).

## Avoid Costly Sewer Spills

One of the main causes of residential sewage spills, which are among the costliest home repairs, is also one of the easiest to avoid. Fats, oils and greases (FOG) washed down the drain gradually accumulate, creating blockages that lead to sewer backups and spills. The sources of FOG aren't only the obvious ones:

- Bacon grease
- Deep frying fats and oils
- Butter, margarine, lard, and shortening
- Mayonnaise
- Cooking oils
- Peanut butter
- Gravy and sauces

You can place fats, oils, and greases in a sealed plastic container and call (916) 774-5780 to schedule a free curbside pickup. For more information, visit [roseville.ca.us/FOG](http://roseville.ca.us/FOG).

