



Socorro SWCD

Winter 2011 Newsletter



Winter Action Plan

Last issue we discussed the importance of watering in the desert southwest. As a brief recap, issues to consider are: knowing when to water, paying attention to weather, especially drought conditions, plant types and ages, and appropriate mulching. Today we're going to continue with water as a theme in relation to soil and the benefits of organic matter.

Organic matter (OM) is desirable and plays a big part in influencing soil structure, which in turn improves aeration, microbial activity and root growth, nutrient availability, water movement and retention. OM is variable in form. Fresh OM includes manure or yard waste (such as leaves or grass clippings), clean straw, etc., and with the help of microbes, are broken down and provide nutrients, improves soil structure and water holding capacity. Stable OM, or humus, decompose slowly. Examples of stable OM are composts, well rotted manure, peat moss or other soil amendments. Plan on increasing OM over time, whether large or small scale, or if your NM soil is sandy, clay, or an array of various textures. Adding OM will improve soils, enhance plant growth and save water!



Winter is an excellent time to prepare for the coming growing season. As you read and ready the garden or farm plan, spend January strategizing carefully how your water needs can be conserved and utilized. If you plan on drip applications or new irrigation methods, see our range technician, Will, who can help you with plans for saving water with efficient drip irrigation systems (office: 575-838-0078, cell: 575-418-5979 or will@qwestoffice.net). With that done, schedule purchases and buying in February and installing in March. Below are several sites and resources that will help in your planning activities. We do not recommend one over another and there are many quality brands on the market. Spend time now, familiarize yourself with terminology, designs, installation & maintenance and costs. Later, reap the water savings when you're feasting on your garden ripe produce or admiring your bountiful harvest.

Local Resources

RAKS Building Supply	835-1270
ACE Hardware	835-1872
Williams Windmill	835-1630

Drip Irrigation Resources



Informational Web Sites

- www.cropinfo.net/drip.htm
- www.irrigationtutorials.com/dripguide.htm
- www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/04702.html
- www.taunton.com/finegardening/pages/g00005.asp

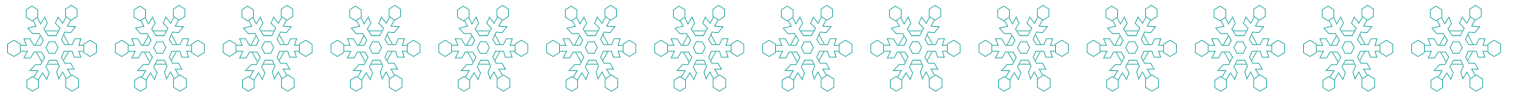
Commercial Web Sites

- www.orbitonline.com
- www.dripirrigation.com
- www.sprinklersupplies4less.com
- www.dripdepot.com
- www.dripworksusa.com/
- www.mrdrip.com/
- www.rainbird.com
- www.dripirr.com
- www.waterrite.com
- www.netafimusa.com



Teachers and Educators:

Welcome back to the start of the new semester! Socorro SWCD offers free classroom presentations on soil, water and natural resource issues and activities. Need speakers, activities or help with environmental content this spring semester? Contact Belle at (575)838-0078 or belle@qwestoffice.net to schedule integrated curricula presentations & activities for K-12th. Content and activities are tied to NM state benchmarks. Sign up to receive information on upcoming student contests and involvement in the natural resources of New Mexico.



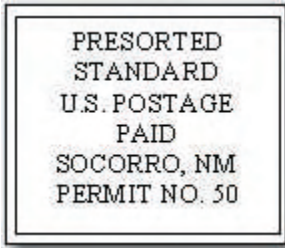
Start a New Year's Resolution —SAVE TREES... AND WATER!!

Get your newsletter electronically! Email us at socorrosxcd@qwestoffice.net and simply put Newsletter along with your name in the text. Go to your computer now and help yourself (and us!) reduce water waste!

Don't forget to visit our web site: www.socorrosxcd.com



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Address Service Requested

Socorro SWCD News & Information:

- **Calling all 5th grade Teachers!** 5th grade students are invited to participate in 2011 Arbor Day Poster Contest (theme: *Trees are Enchanting Inside and Out*). Call us at (575)838-0078 for more information.
- **Irrigators & Landowners:** Limited cost share budget in 2011 for all agricultural water practices. Apply early *before* water comes on!
- **Parrot Feather:** Socorro SWCD is looking to get your input on the effects and concerns you have regarding the aquatic weed Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) found locally in the irrigation drains and low flow channels. Contact us at socorrosxcd@qwestoffice.net , put **Parrot feather** in the subject line and we will add your comments and concerns to our upcoming study in eradication of this noxious weed.
- **Update on Augustin Plains Ranch LLC for appropriating ground water.** State Eng. Admin. hearing process has established a schedule on the application for pumping underground water from St. Augustine Plains. Protestants may file motion for validity of app & speculation by 2/11/11. Supplemental pleadings in support by 3/4/11. Responses in opposition 4/15/11. Hearing on the motion is set for 5/20/11.
- **Socorro SWCD** board meetings are open to the public. The January 11th field day will take place in lieu of the regular scheduled meeting. Regular schedule will resume in February, on the second Tuesday of every month, 5:30 p.m. at the district office.