

Get Ready for Summer with a New Austin Water Rebate

Protect your landscape and your wallet with Austin Water's Drought Survival Tools Rebate. This rebate is available to residential Austin Water customers and customers of qualifying water providers.

So how does the rebate work?

First, purchase the minimum amount of compost, mulch, and/or core aeration services for your landscape.

Compost: 1.5 cubic yards or 40 cubic feet

Mulch: 3 cubic yards or 80 cubic feet

Aeration: Core aeration services for your entire front and/or back lawn area. (Equipment rental is acceptable.)

Second, install the drought survival tool(s) on your landscape.

Third, fill out the Drought Survival Tools Rebate application found at www.waterwiseaustin.org and submit this along with receipts/invoices and photos of your completed work. A rebate check will be mailed to the mailing address within 4-6 weeks.

How much is the rebate?

You can choose to do any combination of the three; if you choose to do all three, you'll get a \$60 bonus!

Compost: \$30

Mulch: \$40

Lawn aeration: \$50

Complete all three and get a total of \$180!

Why are these things good for my landscape?

Compost is great to work into the soil before planting or even around existing plants. But one of the best and often overlooked uses of compost involves your lawn. Compost is an organic material that hangs onto moisture and acts as a slow release fertilizer. Spread ¼" to ½" of compost over your lawn sometime this spring and you'll increase soil health and make the most of water on your landscape while avoiding toxic fertilizers. A simple equation to estimate how many cubic yards of compost (or mulch) you'll need is located below. Or you can turn cubic yards into cubic feet by dividing the cubic yards by 27.

$(\text{Length} \times \text{Width} \times \text{Depth of Compost}) / 324 = \# \text{ of cubic yards needed}$

Spreading *mulch* around trees and in bedded areas helps to retain moisture and keeps the soil insulated from the intense Texas heat. The above equation can help you estimate the amount of mulch you'll need and remember to mulch properly; see www.growgreen.org for tips.

Aeration (specifically core aeration) removes plugs of soil to allow oxygen, water, and nutrients to make their way into the ground and create a better growing environment for your grass. Don't use "spike" aerators which can actually cause more compaction.

Take a proactive approach with your landscape this spring and you won't find yourself using water as a Band-Aid later this summer! For program rules and more information, go to www.waterwiseaustin.org or call Austin Water's conservation division at 512-974-2199.

WELCOME

A Newsletter for Meridian residents

The Monitor is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Meridian residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com or you can email it meridian@peelinc.com. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome.

Our goal is to keep you informed!

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Monitor possible. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

NEWSLETTER INFO

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NEED A GORGEOUS FACILITY FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

One of the most beautiful and progressive Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Posts in the nation is in the Highland Hills section of Oak Hill. Located on several acres of gorgeous Hill Country, VFW Post 4443 on Thomas Springs Road not only provides a peaceful meeting and relaxation place for its members, but the Post also makes its extensive facilities available to the community for reunions, weddings, receptions, memorial services, parties and other events. The facility accommodates up to 175 people and rents at very competitive prices. Discounts are available for local clubs and civic organizations. Rentals include a day to set up and decorating prior to the event.

Facilities include a large hall with full kitchen, bar, coolers, ice machine, plenty of attractive tables and chairs and other amenities. Outside patio and decks with a view of the hill country for picnic, bands, dancing, etc. BBQ pits are built-in on the patios. Also available is a smaller hall that can accommodate up to 75 people. Other amenities include billiards, card tables and a great swimming pool. Proceeds of rentals are used to support the Post, veterans and the local community. Please contact Bob Kuntz at 512-288-4443, or visit the Post's web site at www.vfw4443.org and click on "Facilities Rental"

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICE

Do you have an article or story that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email your document to meridian@peelinc.com.



A Dynamic Duo That Can Help Your Lawn Weather The Drought

by Brett Briant | LCRA Water Conservation Coordinator

Some things just go together, and mulch and compost are two of them. When used together, this formidable pair not only improves your garden and lawn, but they also use water more efficiently.

The combo is important as many of us move to maximum once-a-week watering during this time of severe drought. The pair can help your landscaping survive the drought because plants will be more disease tolerant and water efficient, thereby better able to defend themselves against the drought.

Using a hardwood mulch/compost blend is the best choice for retaining water and improving your soil. The mix will hold its color longer, and the compost will help break down the mulch, which will become a beneficial nutrient for your soil.

However, if you choose to go with one or the other, keep in mind that you can use compost as mulch, but you can't do the opposite. You can't use straight mulch as compost – it's too hard on its own and takes too long to break down and become a beneficial micro-organism to your soil. Mulch should smell like a fresh forest floor. A mulch/compost blend should have a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of about 20-to-1. That's 20 percent carbon to 1 percent nitrogen. When applying this to your existing soil, a soil depth of at least six inches is highly recommended. You can build your soil with the mulch and compost through either

core aeration, where you remove approximately 1 inch by 2 inch cores of soil from the ground to improve the infiltration of water/nutrients, or through light scarifying with a rototiller to remove any debris from the lawn.

A good layer of mulch of about two to four inches in your garden will help suppress weeds. It will also hold in moisture in the heat, and help keep the soil warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. If you are using it as a top dressing to improve the soil on your lawn, you will want to apply a layer of compost that is one-fourth of an inch to one-half of an inch deep.

Another benefit of adding compost to most types of soil, including clay, sandy, alkaline or acidic, is that compost has natural pH buffers. That's the microbiology or bacteria in the soil that creates a healthy environment for your plants. The pH level should be close to neutral, which is a pH of 7. If you add compost to your lawn and compost/mulch to your beds, you will build the soil profile to be much more water efficient and increase its capacity to hold water. The soil will be able to drain and breathe.

Using mulch and compost together is a cost-efficient way to build your soil. They're relatively inexpensive and will help cut down on your water bill. It's a pair you want on your team.



Make an impact.

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Sugar, Heart & Life

A program called Sugar, Heart and Life: A Guide to Living with Diabetes is available for people dealing with the disease. The interactive and fun program developed by Baylor College of Medicine's department of family and community medicine offers information on how individuals with type 2 diabetes can manage their diabetes. The SHL program includes recipes, practical tips and games on diet, exercise, and medication. The program allows users to follow a year in the life of the Gonzalez family as they learn more about managing diabetes and help them make decisions that will keep their family healthy.

All diabetes management recommendations contained in this program are consistent with clinical practice recommendations of the American Diabetes Association and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Recipe Box was adapted from heart healthy recipes from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

*Sugar, Heart and Life can be found at
www.bcm.edu/shl.*

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View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



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11:00 am Registration - 1:00 pm Start

LOCATION: Flintrock Falls Country Club

FORMAT: 4-person scramble

COST: \$165 per golfer*

*Includes lunch, dinner and lots of swag

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Contact Amy Domecq

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GOT STATS?

Meridian by Square Ft Range	6 Months Sold History (09/2013-02/2014)						Current Market	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Sold Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
<2500	1	2,119	\$ 141	\$ 299	2006	49	0	0
2500-2999	4	2,724	\$ 135	\$ 369	2008	26	0	4
3000-3499	8	3,297	\$ 128	\$ 423	2008	32	0	0
3500-3999	4	3,697	\$ 131	\$ 483	2009	133	4	1
4000-4500	4	4,223	\$ 176	\$ 744	2013	52	0	0
>4500	1	4,793	\$ 149	\$ 714	2013	0	1	0
Meridian Total	22	3,448	\$ 140	\$ 483	2009	52	5	5
% Change Mo/Mo	-4%	5%	2%	7%	0%	0%	67%	0%
% Change Yr / Yr	16%	5%	10%	15%	0%	-26%	-50%	-44%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 03/10/2014. Texas License # 515586.
Some new construction and FSBO homes may not be included. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.



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