

# DPU Scoop



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## Guidance for Winter Landscape Watering

Should you be watering your landscaping during the winter? If so, how?

Winter brings all kinds of weather patterns, and as of late December, Los Alamos County had no precipitation since early November. If you choose to hydrate your landscape, 505Outside has great guidance to get you through every season! Though geared toward the greater ABQ area, this resource from the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority is recommended as good general guidance for our area by the NMSU Los Alamos County Extension Agency.

Some tips worth remembering:

- You should water with a hose or a watering can, as in-ground irrigation should already be shut off and winterized given our freezing temps.
- Winter watering should happen during the warmest part of the day, which is typically from 12p-2p.
- If we receive a half-inch of rain or 5-6 inches of snow, skip the next watering.
- If you planted new vegetation in the fall, winter watering is recommended for root establishment.

These recommendations are meant to support your landscape through to the spring and are not requirements by any means. For more winter watering guidance, check out [505outside.com](http://505outside.com).

WATER BY THE SEASONS WINTER WATERING RECOMMENDATIONS (DECEMBER THRU FEBRUARY) FOR GREATER ALBUQUERQUE		
Plant Type	How Often?	How Deep?
TREES	1 TIME PER MONTH	24" INCHES
SHRUBS	1 TIME PER MONTH	18" INCHES
FLOWERING PLANTS	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES
DESERT ACCENTS	NONE	12" INCHES
GROUNDCOVER	1 TIME PER MONTH	8" INCHES
GRASS: TURF (COOL SEASON)	2 TIMES PER MONTH	6" INCHES
GRASS: TURF (WARM SEASON)	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES
GRASS: ORNAMENTAL	1 TIME PER MONTH	18" INCHES
VINES	1 TIME PER MONTH	12" INCHES

=MONTHLY   
 =WEEKLY

CONSERVATION

## Help Mule Deer Survive by Not Feeding Them

Winter feeding of mule deer can be harmful despite good intentions. Supplemental feeding increases risks such as disease transmission, predation, and disruption of natural foraging and migration patterns. Mule deer's specialized digestive system makes them vulnerable to sudden dietary changes, potentially leading to mortality even when food is abundant.

Mule deer learn and remember the locations where they are fed—including houses with well-intentioned residents—and they will continually come back for more. This means they may fail to migrate and exacerbate the problem by passing their food site knowledge with other deer. This causes artificially high animal densities which leads to the spread of diseases and parasites. In heavily populated areas, feeding deer can also lead to other problems, such as attracting predators like mountain lions and bringing deer into busy roads, increasing the risk of vehicle accidents.



### Mule deer strategies for surviving the winter:

- Conserving energy
- Finding shelter
- Migrating
- Adapting their diet
- Withstanding cold temperatures

To learn more about mule deer and living with other wildlife, visit the County website at [www.lacnm.com/wildlife](http://www.lacnm.com/wildlife).

# Simplify Your Finances with Budget Billing

The Budget Billing program establishes equal monthly utility payments, giving you more control over your budget. Leveling out monthly bills is easier for many customers than dealing with fluctuations caused by weather, changes in housing norms, and other factors. And it is free to enroll!

Find out more:

[ladpu.com/BBilling](http://ladpu.com/BBilling)

(505) 662-8333

[CustomerCare@lacnm.us](mailto:CustomerCare@lacnm.us)



## DO YOU RELY ON MEDICAL EQUIPMENT?

The DPU maintains a voluntary medical equipment alert program for customers who use life-sustaining, electrically powered, medical equipment for the preservation of health or life. This list helps us to identify individuals with special notification requirements of planned utility outages and assists us in prioritizing repairs for unplanned outages.

We attempt to provide special notification above normal notification procedures to registered community members when a planned power interruption is scheduled.

Although we work hard to maintain and improve the reliability of the electric system, we cannot guarantee that a power outage will never occur. It is the responsibility of the caregiver to have a backup system and/or a plan of action in the event of a power outage.

We ask that those who are registered re-enroll once a year so that we can keep the list current. After a year, customers who do not re-enroll are removed from the list.

If you would like to register yourself or a member of your household, please contact the Customer Care Center at (505) 662-8333 or [CustomerCare@lacnm.us](mailto:CustomerCare@lacnm.us), OR register online at [ladpu.com/medequip](http://ladpu.com/medequip).



## DPU's Power Restoration Process

### 1. Assessment

Crews immediately begin restoration work while assessing the full extent of damage, which may take hours for large-scale events. During this phase:

- Accurate restoration times for specific areas are often not available
- Except for very small outages, updates are provided through DPU's social media channels and local media
- In the unlikely event of widespread outages that pose health or safety threats, the Code Red emergency alert system may be used

### 2. Substations, Main Lines, Critical Facilities

LAC has two substation power sources:

- Townsite Switch Station (LAC-owned but supplied by a Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) substation)
- White Rock area substation (LAC-owned)

Priority is given to:

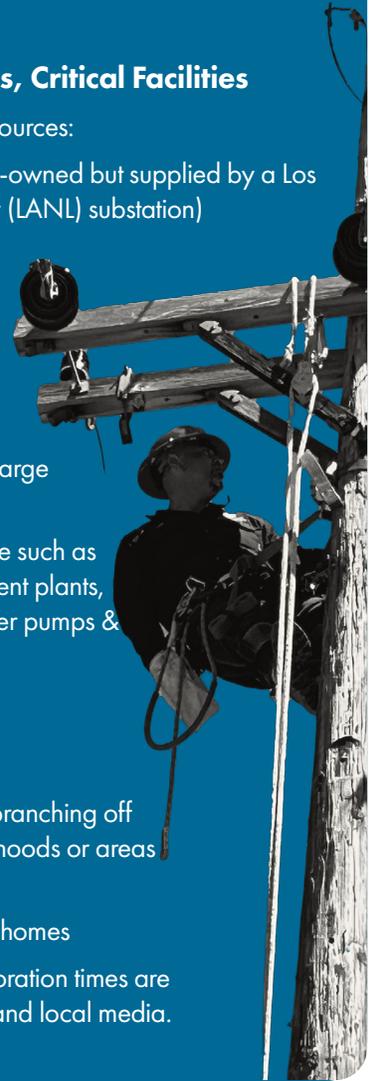
- Repairing outages at LANL substation (by LANL crews)
- Restoring main lines serving large numbers of customers
- Powering critical infrastructure such as hospitals, wastewater treatment plants, communication systems, water pumps & wells, and schools

### 3. Taps and Service Lines

After main line restoration:

- Repair damage to tap lines branching off main lines (serving neighborhoods or areas like the ski area)
- Fix individual service lines to homes

During this stage, estimated restoration times are provided through social media and local media.



## FOLLOW US!

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LOS ALAMOS  
Department of Public Utilities

[ladpu.com/DPU](http://ladpu.com/DPU)