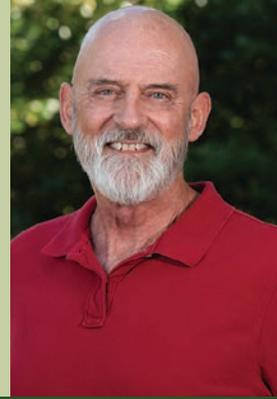


January 2022

## Craig's Corner

Our in-house horticulturist/arborist, Craig Miller, dispenses practical advice for those seeking to simultaneously conserve water and grow thriving, high-visual-impact, drought-tolerant (xeriscape) gardens and landscapes. Please email questions to [craig@cpnmd.org](mailto:craig@cpnmd.org).



### RETHINK WHAT YOU DRINK – BOTTLE YOUR OWN WATER



**About 80% of empty water bottles end up in landfills.**

- Bottled water costs up to 1,000 times more per gallon than tap water. Compare the average cost of \$0.008 per gallon for most tap water to a range of \$0.89 to \$8.26 per gallon for bottled water.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water products sold in the United States, while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates tap water.
- Nearly 50 percent of bottled water is simply filtered or treated tap water.
- More than 17 million barrels of oil are required to produce enough plastic water bottles to meet America's annual demand for bottled water – enough to fuel more than one million cars.
- About 80 percent of the empty plastic water bottles in the United States end up in landfills instead of being recycled. It takes up to 1,000 years for each bottle to decompose. U.S. landfills are overflowing with more than 2 million tons of discarded water bottles.
- Tap water, also known as municipal water, comes from wells, lakes, and reservoirs. It passes through water treatment plants to remove contaminants before reaching its destinations.
- Tap water is generally safe. The United States has one of the safest drinking water supplies in the world. The EPA regulates public water sources by putting legal limits on contaminants.
- Tap water has a substantially lower impact on our environment than bottled water. Unlike bottled water, tap water does not need plastic or other disposable containers that are detrimental to the planet.
- Overall, tap water tastes just as good as bottled water. While mineral content and the age of pipes can affect taste, most people can't tell the difference between the two types of water in blind taste tests.
- Tap water is both convenient and inexpensive. You can easily fill up a reusable water bottle or cup to stay hydrated at home or on the go. Tap water is also available in many public places, including restaurants and drinking fountains. This type of water is usually free anywhere you go.

## XERIC PLANT OF THE MONTH

Southwestern White Pine (*Pinus strobiformis*) is native to the mountains of southwestern Colorado, western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and into the mountains of central Mexico. Also known as Mexican white pine or Chihuahua white pine, it tolerates heat and wind very well and is hardy to 8,500 feet. It does well in urban landscapes and thrives in a variety of soils, preferring loamy well-drained sites.

Southwestern White Pine has a moderate rate of growth. Young trees are dense, symmetrical, and pyramidal in form. In most urban settings, it will reach 35 to 50 feet in height, but can grow to 90 feet in its native habitat. As it matures, it develops an open irregular crown with long, horizontal branches and a mature spread of 20 to 30 feet. The mostly horizontal branch structure and long, soft bluish-green needles combine to provide an attractive year-round landscape element.

