

February 2013

Drought?

What the lack of rainfall means for you



This month we are discussing the ever important news topic of the drought in California. Our plant of the month this month was not chosen for its better characteristics but rather its propensity to freeze. Which brings us to a quick note on this winter's frost damaged plant material. We will be sending out a letter this February notifying all of our clients on the timeline of getting frost damaged plants identified and bid for replacement.



When in Drought

***Inspect Irrigation to Make Adjustments & Repairs**

***Aerate Lawns to Improve Irrigation Access to Roots**

***Upgrade Irrigation System to Decrease & Eliminate Water Waste**

Drought?

Last year, California had its driest year on record. This year is not off to a good start in terms of rainfall. California ranked as one of the most drought ravaged states in the country. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported that 94.25% of the state is enduring some level of drought conditions and 63% of California's land area was listed as being in "extreme drought."

There are multiple causes that this lack of rainfall is attributed to. The largest cause is that over the previous thirteen months there has been a large ridge of high-pressure in the atmosphere just off the West Coast preventing storms that would usually bring rain from entering.



What does this mean for us? Well, luckily, the majority of the water agencies in the Bay Area have prepared for such events over the past decade by instituting rebates for conservation and increasing storage, both underground and in reservoirs. This doesn't mean that we should frivolously use our water resources as there is still potential for possible rationing or increased pricing implemented to cover the costs of further development of water resources in the near future.

The drought will affect your pocketbook. In California, over 50% of residential water use occurs outdoors. With drier than normal soil this summer, plant material is going to require more water than in past summers because of the decreased amount of available water in the groundwater table.

As with other harsh temperature conditions, dry weather requires much of the same treatment. Cover your soils with mulch to reduce the amount of evaporation of the water in the soil. Ensure that your irrigation system is working as efficiently as possible. Any line breaks could be costly causing excessive water waste and plant loss. You might want to think about upgrading your controller this Spring in preparation for Summer.

Plant of the Month: Myoporum

Originally from Australia and New Zealand, Myoporum has been cultivated as a drought tolerant perennial ground cover that can now be seen all over California. It prefers full sun, requires irrigation in summer and grows from 3 to 6 inches in height. Recently Myoporum has been attacked by thrips. This pest infestation has become so prevalent that Myoporum is not being recommended for large planting areas as it had previously been used.



We have chosen Myoporum as the plant of the month this month not for its favorable characteristics, but more so for its reaction to this winter's cold temperatures. Myoporum throughout the bay area is freezing with the temperature, causing itself a considerable amount of damage and in severe cases, death.

On JPA: Ahead of the Curve

JPA is ahead of the curve when it comes to preparing our landscapes for drought conditions. Our skilled team is expert in programming controllers for optimal effectiveness irrigation. We are proactive on our sites identifying any irrigation repairs that are needing to be made as we gear up in the coming months. For any questions on what you can do on your landscape to reduce water waste and better position yourself for the upcoming summer, please contact our Customer Service Department by replying to this email. We look forward to working with you in improvement.



This Month in Maintenance

Remove Morea Seed Pods
Edge Monthly
Mow Bi-Weekly
Tree Skirting