

transition your lawn to a hardier, low-maintenance lawn. (At our home, we planted an [eco-lawn](#) this spring and are very pleased with the results. Even during this dry spell it's still green and lush, while the old lawn in front of the house is brown and dry.)

During a Drought Conserve Water

You can conserve water by temporarily withholding water from the lawn and inducing summer dormancy. The objective is to supply just enough water to keep the lawn alive until conditions improve. Although the lawn will go brown, the crown, rhizomes and roots may survive for 4 to 6 weeks without watering. In addition, the following steps will help:

Raise the Mowing Height 25 Percent or More

Letting the grass grow a bit taller will increase the shading of surface roots and help retain surface moisture.

Don't Fertilize

High fertility before or during a drought can promote injury to the grass and reduce root mass. Nitrogen rates should be kept low; feed almost as much potassium. This will produce healthy and tough tissues. If darker color is required, don't apply more nitrogen; consider spraying foliar iron instead.

Reduce Foot Traffic on The Lawn

As the top layer of soil dries, damage from compaction increases. Aeration is reduced and the root system has decreased access to available moisture.

Identify the Hot Spots on your Lawn To Focus Watering

Areas near buildings and other heat-reflecting surfaces will be hotter and drier, and will require more water than cooler areas, such as spots which are shaded by trees or large shrubs. Once you identify the hot zones you can more efficiently focus the watering.

We have been dealing with drought and severe heat for many years in our area. We learn to stay hydrated, utilize shade and other cooling methods to live in this heat so the least we can do is so to do our part to make lawn survival easier in our part of the world. Have a great week. M.V.

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