

Sample issue sent 8/31/2014

Hello:

Hope you have had a GREAT Summer!

At the Water Expo near Wolfforth the other Saturday Krissy Scotten with the National Weather Service shared that we have been in the driest 43 continuous months EVER recorded! And that to break out of the drought that it would take 30 inches of rain during the Fall and Winter months. Probably not going to happen.

Though not record breaking heat, we still are very hot and dry. And this can put a lot of stress on your turf. Hybrid bermudas will actually put out sterile seed heads as a survival instinct. It is really no problem but some people see this as unsightly. More water can help but also an additional application of nitrogen can really work wonders.

If you have(make) time you can apply your fertilizer and then turn on your sprinkler and watch it run through all it's stations. You will not get into trouble with the city regulations because you are visually inspecting your system which is a good practice that everyone needs to do and wow, you are soooo smart in doing it while getting your fertilizer watered in! I love working with geniuses!

And if you need to raise a head or change out a filter/nozzle - go see the good people at Water Master's Irrigation Supply at 6001 Marsha Sharp Freeway! And if you need some really good fertilizer 16-4-8 with 4% iron, just let me know.

I know, I know...that dang water bill and even watering just once a week multiple times on that day can be expensive (and I am not sure how the heck this stage is any different than the previous one since the city "allows" the same exact amount to be applied....local government wisdom - NOT). I have had some friends say to heck with that and have had T & T Drilling come in and drill their very own well - right into the bubble of water that the city is sitting on and they can put down exactly how much water they want, when they want!!! So if you want to pay less for water (in the long run) and tell the city where to go - call Skeeter over at T & T Drilling 806-744-4298 and let him know you heard about it in Turf Tips!

Some manufacturers of fertilizers change the mix just a little and then slap a "new" label on the bag and call it "Winterizer". When in fact you can take your regular (or the GREAT one I have) and just cut back a little (75%) of what you would normally apply and you are good! This application is important and can really help our bermudas break out of dormancy in the Spring being so much more healthier!

A really good maintenance piece of advice to prepare for the change of seasons (and FOOTBALL) is to get Gus' Lube out to your home or business to change the oil in your vehicle (and RV ...tailgating!!!) so that you will be ready for that cold "blue" Northerner to come through and be able

to make it home from work or back from the game! Call Gus at 806-786-7922 and let him know you heard about it in Turf Tips!

At the Water Expo - Randall Merriot was a presenter and had a booth to help people with their sprinkler systems. One thing I noticed that I had never thought of before is when something new is going to come in and affect your landscape (new tree, new storage shed, new patio, new swimming pool) you can save yourself some heartburn and money by getting Randall out BEFORE so he can help modify your sprinkler system before you make a big change to your landscape. It would be a great time to get a system check-up, so call Randall at 806-778-5124 He is licensed Irrigator #5817 since 1996.

Planning - that is what you need to do if you are considering a major change to your landscape. If you are looking at changing an area to a SmartScape design - better call Kevin Kouth of SmartScapes of Lubbock at 806-831-2152. Kevin can draw up a design and then get it installed for you that will be water conserving while still beautiful! There are many drought resistant plants that have gorgeous colors that can be placed just right in a design to draw people's attention to your new SmartScape landscape!

Some things are difficult to plan, like an invasion of ticks that can cause your pets problems. Know that many people are having problems with them and some try and do-it-themself and buy grocery store type product and do not have much success. Guess even our ticks are West Texas Tough! You know who I would call - Jay Stone over at Pest Management Services 806-794-4567. Even at the Research Center we will have an occasional "flair-up" of some type of pest and we quickly call Pest Management Services to schedule a special visit or to add an extra step during their regular monthly visit to take care of our pest problems.

After this Labor day weekend - many will be pulling their boats out of the water, cleaning them up and then letting them sit for another 6 months before they take them out to the lake. Don't let your "baby" sit out in the harsh West Texas sun, put your boat up right in a indoor, totally inclosed storage at Alamo Boat and RV Storage! Off of Hwy 87 just past the 82nd street exit at 9302 Hwy 87 - call Mr. Haney at 806-748-8300.

It also might be a very good time to talk with some of your neighbors and go in together to purchase a Little Wonder Lawn Vacuum from the good people at Outdoor Power Pros. I think once you picked one up that you would use it a lot more than you think. Would have been really nice for many of those after the hail storm we just experienced to suck off the leaves. Then when Fall comes and the first freeze (Avg. Oct 31st but I am thinking a couple of weeks early) it might be a light one that only make some species of trees change colors and drop their leafs. But, when another Blue Northerner blows through - watch out there can be a pile of leafs in corners you never even thought of and I like to use them when we are having people over for the holidays for a quick vacuum of the outside. Go by and see Juan and his family at 2319 - Texas Ave. and call them at 806-747-8873.

And talking about the coming holidays - if you are planning to host some get togethers - be thinking about what would be pleasing to the eye when your guests are driving up. And since your party might move outside if the weather is nice - what can you do to add some green and color to your

outdoor environment? Well, get on over to Tom's Tree Place and see Vronka and Jerald. Take a few pictures on your phone and see what they can suggest that you can plant now or in a couple of weeks that might really take hold and then Pop! Bring some beauty in some strategic places can make ALL the difference that might make your guest marvel at how beautiful your home is inside and out! Tom's Tree Place at 5104 - 34th Street close to Slide Road. Let them know you heard about it in Turf Tips!

On the Collins & Mac Friday morning show 6:20AM I have shared how it is a really good time to seed bermuda or sprig right now! Any later and it might not fill in all the way. If you are wanting to use some of the excellent hybrid bermudas that King Ranch grows but just need a few slabs (1 slab can sprig about 100 sq. feet) you can call them earlier in the week toll free at 877-424-8873 and ask what retail outlet (like Tom's Tree Place) will be getting a delivery this week and on what day. The fresher it is the better.

I have helped many of you over the years with all of your turf needs and many times to get things right we have to work on the trees to get more sun or take out a tree that is now a nuisance. With the long term drought that we are going through we are losing many trees. Robin and I just took a drive to a store about 15 blocks away and we counted the number of dead trees (or very close to death) and we saw 31!!!! This is horrible and I would be glad to help you if I can, but on many of them that are very tall, close to power lines etc.... the man I would call is Coby McGee. Coby has really done some great work for so many people in taking care of sick or dead trees so that they will not fall on peoples homes, fences or even cars. And if we do get those nasty ice storms - Coby's friends and customers will be in much better shape and not having to clean up and rebuild after what damage an ice storm can create with dead limbs and trees - get on his list now and call him at 806-781-1321.

Appreciate all of your referrals and all your questions. Please let me know if I can help you with anything. Email or call 806-632-3268.

Thanks and God Bless the USA!
Mika

