



DR. R.E. MOON +
ASSOCIATES
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By Dr. Moon

The heat has arrived, and it is another scorcher! Texas is no stranger to extreme heat in summer, but if you were in Texas in 1980 as I was, you endured one of the hottest summers on record. I was working for Texas A&M Extension Service and remember all the problems associated with that

summer heat. We learned a lot about plant care during that time. If you have been outside, you have felt the effect of the heat, and so have your plant materials. The following recommendations are essential:

- **You must follow all watering restrictions for the city where you live. Most cities have already issued levels of regulation for watering. Become familiar with the days and times you are allowed to water.**
- **Many of your homes have drip irrigation around foundations, shrub beds, and bubblers on trees. These zones need to run as much as restrictions allow.**
- **If you have a newly planted landscape, most cities will allow you to water for survival. Again, check your city guidance.**
- **Bermudagrass turf can tolerate and recover from drought easier than your other plants, so if restrictions become more severe with the continued heat, focus on your foundation, trees, and shrubs. If you have St. Augustinegrass or Zoysiagrass turf, you may need to hand water this turf to keep it from dying.**
- **Hand watering can be a very effective way of adding extra water efficiently to your plants. You can add water only where needed without wasting much water. Respond by adding extra water to plants when you see wilting or observe the first sign of burned leaves to prevent leaf scorch.**

If restrictions increase, focus first on watering your foundation, trees, shrubs, and container plantings. Your Bermudagrass turf will turn brown and go dormant, but it will recover once restrictions lift and rainfall has returned. And if it doesn't, reseeding is much less expensive than replacing your valuable trees and shrubs!



Pythium Attacking Turf!

By Dr. Gradilla

Some of you are seeing brown areas on your turf. Unfortunately, this is not all drought. It can be a disease that has started to attack weakened areas in your turf due to drought. This disease is called pythium blight or greasy spot, and if left untreated, it can kill turf areas in bermudagrass lawns. The diseased areas will turn dark brown and feel oily to the touch. Pythium can attack the roots, crowns, and foliage of turf.



The disease will start in small patches on the foliage but can quickly spread to large areas in the turf if left uncontrolled. Pythium is active after rain events and high humidity when temperatures are in the 80s or 90s during the day and the 70s or 80s during the night. The disease spreads at night when the turf is wet or during long periods of rain, causing damp turf.

To help prevent this disease, water early in the morning so the turf will dry out when the sun comes up. Do not water in the early evening, when turf can stay wet overnight.



You can use Spectracide Immunox, Scotts Disease EX, or Bio-Advanced Fungus Control for Lawns to control Pythium. If you see this disease, treat it quickly!

****FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OTHER TURF DISEASES, REFERENCE THE JUNE GARDENING BY THE MOON NEWSLETTER ARTICLE- "LAWN CARE"**

Grub Worms in Ornamental Grass Beds

This time of year, ornamental grass beds only require a little irrigation as they are drought-tolerant. However, if you know that you are irrigating adequately but notice them start to die off, it may be due to grubworm activity. Your next step is to dig down into the soil of the ornamental grass beds to look for grub worms. If you find them, a granular insecticide such as Scott's GRUBEX is the best control. You can purchase this product at any garden or home improvement store.



****FOR INFORMATION ON OTHER INSECTS THAT LOVE YOUR PLANTS, PLEASE LOOK AT THE JUNE GARDENING BY THE MOON NEWSLETTER**

FUN TIP: Salvia greggii is also known as Autumn Sage and is a native Texas plant. It comes in many colors – red, pink, purple, and white. It is one of the showiest flowering plants that will perform from late spring to late fall. It grows in an attractive clump that is a maximum of 3 feet in height and 3 feet wide. These plants prefer the sun but will also grow in part shade. They can tolerate dry to medium soil moisture conditions, and they attract butterflies and hummingbirds!



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JULY 2023 Issue of *Gardening by the Moon*