



“DROUGHT-PROOFING YOUR LAWN”

Many Landscapes in California, receive much more water than they need. When irrigation is applied too frequently plants may appear happy, however the roots will remain shallow and not search for more water deep in the soil. Always, and especially now, increasing root depth increases the drought tolerance of your lawn.

Consult our website for drought tolerant blends and varieties which include Bolero™ Dwarf and 90/10 Tall Fescue, California Native Sod™ blends and Bermudagrass varieties. These grasses have proven to handle higher degrees of drought stress and usually recover quickly when watering conditions improve.

Talking to a Landscape professional and following the suggestions below will go a long way to “drought proof” your turf:

- Start with deep tine aeration of your lawn NOW! This allows water, oxygen and nutrients to better penetrate into the soil. Next, identify your irrigation lines and flag your sprinkler heads to avoid causing damage during the aeration process.
- Tune-up your irrigation; run the system to check for leakage and proper coverage; repair as necessary.
- Switch-up your irrigation cycles:
 - Apply one deep irrigation cycle per week using a ‘cycle soak’ method. Depending on your soil type, wait 15-30 minutes then apply a second ‘cycle soak’. This will push the water deep into the soil increasing the drought tolerance of your turf.
 - *The best time to water your turf is between 2am and 5am.*
- Visual signs of drought stress in turf:

OK

The color of the turf will start take on a blue/grey cast...leaving your blade height higher than normal can also help to reduce stress.

OK

Expect the overall appearance and color of your turf to look similar to this...

OK

Most lawn species can survive on 30% to 50% of reference evapotranspiration (eg. If reference ET is 2” per week, apply 0.6” to 1” of water.)

NOT OK!

Keeping your lawn from reaching this drought stage is critical to ensure replacement is not necessary when conditions improve.

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