

Practices for water restrictions or extreme drought to help your lawn!

All turfs - **Let them grow taller!** The additional height of the blades of grass will help shade the soil and therefore you will lose less water to evaporation. For best results, grass should be kept at a height of about 3 inches. Grass can go into stress if grown taller than 3 inches.

Mulch! - You can stop catching grass clippings. The clippings will help retain moisture, reduce evaporation and provide supplemental nutrients for the lawn. Grass clippings break down quickly and encourage beneficial earthworms and microorganisms that maintain healthy grass and soil. A mulching blade can help but, if you are concerned about thatch build-up; try bagging or composting your clippings every other mowing.

If you are fortunate to fertilize right before a rain, a good healthy turf will be able to survive better than a weak turf during a severe drought or water restriction.

With an average rainfall of 16" – 18" a year, turf varieties such as Bermuda and Buffalo will do very well and survive in most landscapes. Only in very shady areas should other "cool season" turf varieties be considered, especially since they require so much more water to survive.

Since it is estimated that more than 50%-60% of water use is used for turf in landscapes, it is imperative that you water wisely and select the best turf varieties. Limiting your turf areas and landscaping with water conservation in mind will help save our water resources. Use this site to learn more about SmartScape and look through our "Water Conservation Tips Archives" for more information.