

# LOOKOUT FOR DROUGHT

Warm Florida weather is great for golf, the beach, or a day on the boat. But that famous Florida sunshine also brings a serious threat to our lawns – drought stress. With temperatures already in the 90's, it's important to learn how to recognize the three stages of drought stress and how you can protect your lawn from serious damage this season.

## STAGE 1 - WILT



The first sign of drought stress is a dulling color in the lawn. This is a result of the grass blades folding lengthwise to conserve water. In this state, the weakened grass lacks its normal resilience and will show clear footprints of depressed grass when walked upon. Consider this your lawn's way of asking for water. Respond quickly and expect to see color return within 24 hours.



### SYMPTOMS

DIM, FOLDED BLADES. VISIBLE FOOTPRINTS IN LAWN.



### DAMAGE

NONE, IF IRRIGATED SOON.

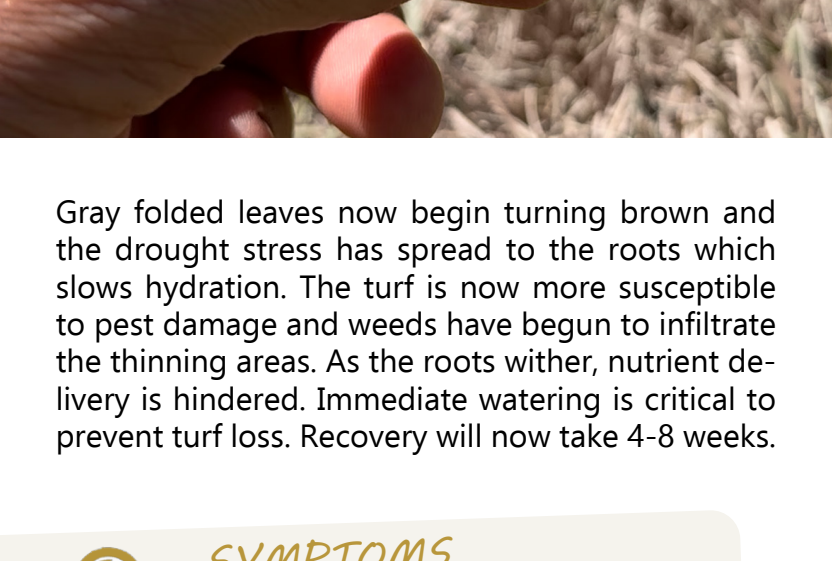


### REMEDY

WATER SOON.

## STAGE 2 - WITHER

BLADES ARE BRITTLE AND STRAW-LIKE, AND THE ROOT SYSTEM IS UNABLE TO DELIVER NUTRIENTS PROPERLY. WATER ASAP!



Gray folded leaves now begin turning brown and the drought stress has spread to the roots which slows hydration. The turf is now more susceptible to pest damage and weeds have begun to infiltrate the thinning areas. As the roots wither, nutrient delivery is hindered. Immediate watering is critical to prevent turf loss. Recovery will now take 4-8 weeks.



### SYMPTOMS

LITTLE GREEN COLOR REMAINS. GRASS IS STRAW LIKE.



### DAMAGE

LOW-MODERATE

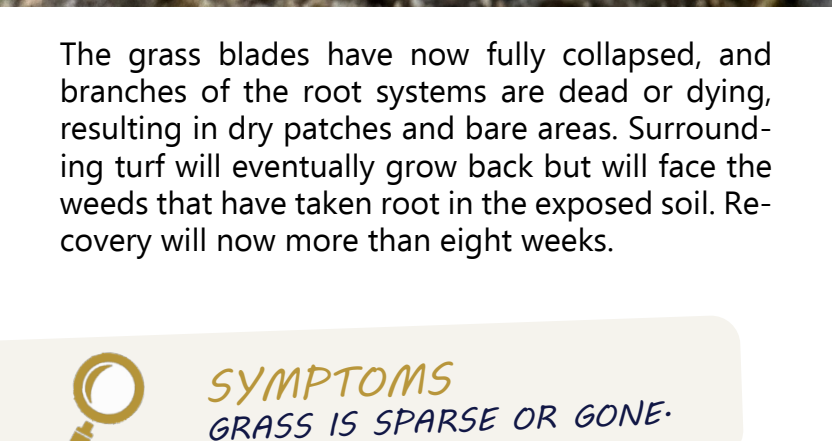


### REMEDY

WATER ASAP

## STAGE 3 - COLLAPSE

DROUGHT-TOLERANT WEEDS HAVE MOVED IN AND ARE SLOWING THE RECOVERY PROCESS.



The grass blades have now fully collapsed, and branches of the root systems are dead or dying, resulting in dry patches and bare areas. Surrounding turf will eventually grow back but will face the weeds that have taken root in the exposed soil. Recovery will now more than eight weeks.



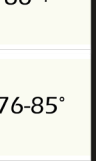
### SYMPTOMS

GRASS IS SPARSE OR GONE.



### DAMAGE

SEVERE



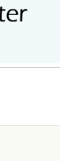
### REMEDY

WATER AND FERTILIZE DILIGENTLY LONG-TERM.

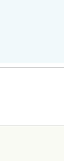
## DEANS SERVICES RECOMMENDED WATERING SCHEDULE



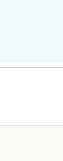
Amount



Times weekly



MP Time\*



PGP Time\*

86°+

3/4"

3

105 mins

45 mins

76-85°

1/2"

2

70 mins

30 mins

46-75°

1/2"

1

70 mins

30 mins

< 46°

Do not water

### \*MP Heads vs. PGP Heads

\*MP (high-efficiency) heads disperse water more slowly than PGP heads. This reduces water runoff by allowing your lawn more absorption time. While more efficient, MP heads require a longer run time than traditional PGP heads.

To tell which type you have, look at the spray pattern. MPs apply water in several pin streams while PGPs spray in a jet-spray pattern similar to a garden hose.

- Ornamentals require 20 minutes, twice per week.
- Suggestions are approximate.
- Local restrictions may apply.

Because drought damage begins in as little as three days, consistent hydration is critical to the survival of your lawn. While it rains often in summer, these showers are intermittent and must be supplemented with regular irrigation. To make sure your system is running efficiently, check each zone to ensure all heads are giving proper coverage.

Once your irrigation system is ready to go, be sure to add lawn care to your Deans service package. Together, we'll keep your lawn looking its best come rain...or shine!