

**Quality Landscape Maintenance, Design
and Installation**

August Newsletter

Drought '06

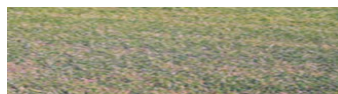
By: Ben Hall

Despite recent rainy weather, as of June 25 the central part of Maryland has received about half of its normal amount of rainfall. The symptoms of the current drought are easy to see. Many areas of turf are thin and brown and even trees and shrubs exhibit scorched or wilted leaves. Areas that have poor soil are more susceptible to drought, and poor sites will show exaggerated symptoms of drought and have weaker looking turf and trees. Certain planting sites can exaggerate the effects of dry weather. For example, trees that are planted on islands in the middle of paved parking lots exist in an almost constant state of stress. This stress is due to the poor soil conditions found under the paved surfaces, the absence of available water and oxygen to the roots, and the increased temperature caused by the heat absorbed and radiated by the paved surfaces. Planting beds that are installed between buildings and sidewalks in sunny locations can have many of the same problems.

The only short term solution to drought stress, assuming the natural rainfall does not increase, is to apply supplemental water to plants. Trees need about 15 to 20 gallons of water per week and shrubs need about half of that. Recently installed plants have a much greater need for water than do established plantings, and remember that plants in stress inducing locations like parking lots will have an even greater need. The best time to water is early in the morning. Watering close to noontime is inefficient because much of the water is lost to evaporation due to the increased heat and light. Watering at night can encourage fungal problems if leaves are allowed to remain wet and damp overnight. A good thorough soaking of the soil around the plant is much more beneficial than a quick misting of the leaves and soil surface. Be sure to check with your local municipality because many areas enact restrictions on when and how you can water during a drought.



Turf prior to drought



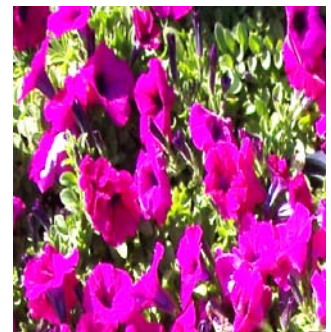
Turf after drought



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Delaying Mowing

By Rob Meier

MainScapes, Inc. may delay mowing your property if we go through periods of time without rain. Turf will enter a period of dormancy in an effort to protect itself when there is a lack of moisture. Especially hot and dry spots, the turf during dormancy becomes more vulnerable. If in this state, we could actually start to kill the turf. Patches of turf could die, or you might see brown tire tracks going through the turf, this would be more apparent in sunny areas versus shady areas. Even though the turf may look like it needs to be cut, we would still hold off for fear of doing more harm than good.

Watering Recently Planted Trees

 Unlike established plants, which do best with deep infrequent irrigation, research clearly shows that recently transplanted trees and shrubs establish quickest with light frequent irrigation. Trees planted in the spring or summer would need to be watered one to three times through out the day for the first few months after planting. Following the first few months, water once a week until plant is fully established..



Watering Facts

Living plants are up to 90% water. Tree roots take up 99% of the water.

A mature tree can lose hundreds of gallon of moisture a day.

An ideal soil for root growth is 1/3 water, 1/3 air and 1/3 solid.

Browning, wilting, and scorch after very hot or cold weather are

Golf Outing 2006



A big thanks to CAI for hosting the annual golf tournament at Fairway Hills Golf Course on June 21st. MainScapes Inc. sponsored the beverage cart and gave out goodie bags to all those who participated in the event. The festivities included good food, door prizes, and giveaways. Congratulations to those who displayed their golf talents. Additional prizes were given out to Closest to the Pin, Straightest Drive and Longest Drive. First place of the Best Ball Tournament with a low gross of 51 went to Mark McFall, Mike Sweeney, John Wary and Gary Simon of McFall & Berry. Second place was Brian Smith, Chris Melson, Glen Loveland and Judy Branthover of Palmer Brothers. Third Place went to Bob Turner, Stefon Willyard, Mike Molony and Butch Glasgow of Grounds Management. First place of the Scoring by Handicap with a low net of 43 was Mike Nage, Maggie Brown, Jack Roberts

and Joan Lovelace of Nagle & Zaller. Second place went to Kirk Parsons, Chris Carlson, Pat Gray, Rob Pushack with Engineering & Technical Consultants. Scott Karam, Mike Feltenberger and Dave Caplan of Palmer Brothers came back to take the third place win. Congrats to our own Kelly Boyce who won the \$100 raffle. To all those who did not have the day they expected on the links, just shake the sand out of your shoes and better luck next year!



Continuing Our Education

Rob Meier is MainScapes own Plant Healthcare Manager. In addition to his substantial range of expertise as a lawn specialist, Rob completed a Turf Grass Management Course at the University of Georgia. The course is a comprehensive home study program created to help participants master up-to-date turfgrass, management practices, procedures and troubleshooting. The Turfgrass Professional course is sponsored by UGA and Professional Landcare Network (Planet). This program is designed for all industry professionals, including those affiliated with lawn care companies, public parks and recreation areas, schools, golf courses, cemeteries, athletic field and other turf facilities. The course was founded by Dr. Keith Karnok, a professor of agronomy at the University of Georgia. The Georgia Center, a unit of the University of Georgia's Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, provides innovative lifelong learning opportunities through its continuing education programs. Rob is always available for suggestions and to answer any questions. He can be reached at 301-260-0190, or through e-mail at rob@mainscapes.com.

Grub Control

Depending on where you live in the Baltimore-Washington D.C. area, you may have noticed the emergence of Japanese Beetles this summer. Compared to the last two summers the Japanese Beetle population is less than what it has been. We have just about reached the time when the adult beetles have stopped feeding on ornamental plants, and are concentrating on mating and laying eggs.

When these eggs hatch, grubs, which is the larvae of Japanese Beetles (see picture below) will emerge. Starting in August and continuing through October are when grubs do the most damage to turf. There are too many variables to predict what kind of grub populations we will see this fall. Preventative grub controls can still be applied effectively until the end of August.

When grubs number 10 or more per square foot (see picture below) they will seriously start to damage turf. If this happens then curative controls would be needed. Curative controls are not nearly as effective as the preventative controls.



Looking Forward to Fall '06

While many people think of Spring and Summer as seasons to get involved in plants and gardening, Fall is actually the best time for planting. Trees and shrubs in particular respond well to Fall installation because the typically cooler and wetter weather is more conducive to becoming established in a new location. This area traditionally receives more natural rainfall in Fall and thus the need for supplemental watering of new plantings is reduced. Trees and shrubs also have favorable conditions for establishing new roots in the fall because root growth can continue up until the soil freezes solid, sometimes not until January in this area. Adding a 3" layer of shredded hardwood mulch can enhance root growth by further moderating soil temperature and helping to retain moisture. Bulbs and Fall pansies are other planting options for Fall. The pansies will add color immediately and last until the dead of Winter, and re emerge in the Spring. The bulbs will be installed in Fall and add color along with the pansies in early Spring.

FAQ's

Did You Know.....?

In a thick stand of turf, there are 6 turf grass plants per inch, 850 plants per square foot and about 8 million per every 10000 sq ft.

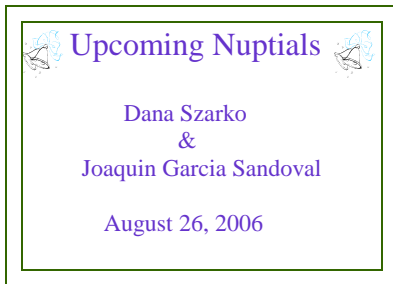
In the United States turf is estimated to trap some 12 million tons of dust and dirt annually.

Grass takes carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and converts it into oxygen, a 2500 sq ft area produces enough oxygen for a family of four.

One tree produces 260 pounds of oxygen a year.

In a pound of turf type tall fescue grass seed, there are 200,000 to 250,000 seeds per pound, Kentucky Bluegrass has 1 million to 2 million seeds per pound.

Trees cut down noise pollution by acting as sound barriers.



Quarterly Reminders

At MainScapes, Inc. We are determined to keep our property managers and homeowner's informed of services to be performed in the upcoming month.

- * Fall turf improvement which includes, fertilization, aeration, liming and overseeding.
- * Planting of fall annuals/ fall bulbs.
- * Leaf removal
- * Just a reminder that we will be sending out snow renewal contracts shortly. Your prompt response would be greatly appreciated.

Our newsletter will be coming out every quarter so that we may keep you informed on upcoming event and important information.

If your question was not answered please feel free to contact our office by phone, fax, or e-mail at:

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