



SPECIAL BULLETIN

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RECORD HEAT AND MY LANDSCAPE

We wanted to communicate to everyone regarding the record heat this month and how it relates to your landscape so you will know what it is you are seeing.

Many of the trees and shrubs are showing signs of stress, especially the desert adapted species and more so the non-native species. While Mesquite, Palo Verde, and many natural desert trees are suffering too, the effects may not be showing as much yet. Shrubs such as Lantana, Ruellia, Orange Jubilee, and even the Bougainvillea are showing yellowing, browning and leaf curling. Most summers we have a week or two of sustained heat, however August has been exceeding past years by leaps and bounds.

Even though the landscaped areas are irrigated, that will not sustain many plants through long stretches of heat like we are experiencing. With the minerals, chemicals, sodium, and high Ph in the water, it isn't the best mixture for plant material. The best form of irrigation is always rain but the irrigation systems will support most plant life between rain events. In this case, rain has been minimal, heat has been excessive, and the result is stressing or dying plants. Areas you will see the most stress or plant death is near hard surfaces such as asphalt, cement, and walls. These components absorb the heat and through convection heat up the soil for several feet around them. Even regular irrigation will not make the plants in these areas look healthy but it will keep many of these alive until conditions improve.

Some turf areas will be suffering since some winter rye manages to stay alive in amongst the Bermuda for much of the summer. Any that existed is now dying out. The best way to avoid this is have the winter rye sprayed out in the spring so the Bermuda will overtake it.

Palm trees require a significant amount of irrigation to be healthy. Regular fertilization will help them make it through the heat easier than if they are not fertilized. Date Palms and Queen Palms are especially sensitive and should have regular fertilization. Have you seen Palm trees that are different caliper along the height of the trunk? The smaller caliper shows a growing period where it was not receiving enough water.

With some rain in the forecast we can hope for that badly needed rain and hope milder temperatures are coming soon!



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