



# green SIDE UP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL GREENERY LANDSCAPING  
Serving Glynn, Camden, Nassau, McIntosh, Wayne, Liberty, Bryan & Chatham Counties | JULY 2023



## We are experiencing a HEAT WAVE!!

**A heat wave is a period when temperatures are excessively high with high humidity and usually leads to drought conditions.** We get many calls regarding the heat and its effects on landscapes during this time of year.

### What does a heat wave do to landscapes?

The excessive heat along with little to no rainfall causes ALL turf and ALL plant material to suffer. Landscapes, even those with irrigation systems, may dry up within minutes and can burn if in direct sunlight. This effect can happen even after running your irrigation system.

### Can irrigation correct the effects of a heat wave and drought?

Irrigation systems are designed to provide supplemental water to your plant material and grass. This supplement cannot saturate the turf and soil enough during a heat wave to stop plant material and grass from showing heat stress. The dry conditions during a heat wave will cause the soil temperatures to increase thus the drying and burning of plant material will follow. Your landscape is getting heat from the soil as well as heat from the sun, which is a no-win situation.

## Properties of the Month: JULY

**Sterling Creek**  
*Savannah*



**Creekfire RV Resort**  
*Support Services*



**Island Retreat**  
*Golden Isles*



**Coastal Pines  
Technical College**  
*South*



*Each property is selected by the  
Branch Manager according to  
the crew's monthly Quality  
Control report.*

## Will running irrigation longer correct the effects of a heat wave?

With a heat wave, drought will usually follow leading to limited water usage. Until your county and/or city restricts your water usage, water your landscape regularly. Running your irrigation during the cooler times of day will allow for more of the water to reach deeper into the soil and possibly keep the soil wetter longer. Running the irrigation for longer intervals, during the hottest part of the day, is very wasteful.



## Will summer rainstorms help the effects of a heat wave?

The rain that comes with a summer storm is a welcome sight to most property owners. Although summer storms are known to pop up and leave quickly after dumping a lot of water, this water will most likely not reach the deep areas needed to completely rehydrate landscapes for optimal recovery. But turf and plant material will welcome any water it can get during a heat wave.



Because we live in the south, we will experience periods of extreme heat. There are limitations to what can be done to your landscape to escape the effects of the heat. Shade helps plant material and turf from burning but shade does not stop the soil temperatures from rising. Mowing with the blades set high will help, but again soil temperatures rise.

The loss of moisture during a heat wave puts stress on landscapes and landscapers alike. It is our mission, at Coastal Greenery, to educate our clients on the effects of a heat wave and loss of moisture. We will continually monitor irrigation systems to ensure they are working properly, and we will communicate any issues we see that need attention on your property.

It will take many hours of steady rain to remedy the signs of this heat wave. Let's all start praying for several days of nothing but RAIN!



## Team Members of the Month: JULY

**Justin Hersey**  
Support Services



**Gabriel Hernandez**  
Golden Isles



**Corey Floyd**  
Savannah



**Jilunei Dickey**  
South



*These team members display the company core values (Safety, Quality, Leadership, Relationships) in all that they do while working, have excellent attendance, and are constantly trying to improve themselves.*

# Deep Root Growth vs. Heat of Summer

**We are in the middle of the heat and humidity of the summer, and we have several weeks until temperatures are cooler.** While we can duck indoors and enjoy the comforts of air conditioning, unfortunately our landscapes cannot.

With plant material out in the heat, the logical idea is to give the plant material more water, so the landscape doesn't dry out. You will find that a great deal of plant material will still dry out when watered daily. How does this happen and how can you control this from happening?

Simply put, deep root growth is a good horticultural technique that helps plant material to stand up to summer heat and lack of water. After new plant material has established roots, you should encourage deep root growth by training the plant material months before the hot weather arrives. Train your plant material by deeply watering plant material fewer days throughout the year for longer periods of time. This allows the water to penetrate down deep into the soil. Watering every 2-4 days allows the soil to start drying at the surface and signals the roots to grow downward in search of moisture. When



plant material is watered daily, the roots will grow shallow because the water is readily available at the surface. Shallow rooted plant material will dry out quicker in the heat of summer than deeply rooted plant material.

Training plant roots to grow deep is a process and the roots cannot be trained over night or in a limited time. You cannot just start to cut back on watering. You will need to slowly train the roots, so

they grow down for water. Remember that water penetration is determined by the soil type so know your soil type and/or check it for absorption. If your soil doesn't absorb well, you can break up the time into 2-3 intervals to allow for absorption. For example, if you water for 30 minutes in an area and the soil isn't absorbing well, break it up to 3 cycles of 10 minutes each.

Start training your shallow rooted plant material AFTER the current heat has subsided so that next year you will have hearty plant material that will stand up to the heat and stress of summer!



# Drought Stress on Grass

**This time of year, in an instant, your lush grass can and will show signs of drought.** There are 2 ways that you can see drought stress and that is with dry spots or “graying” of the turf. Along the southern coast, we have been in a drought for the past few years, so the appearance of dry spots and blueish-gray grass means that you have a very thirsty turf.



These signs are not something that **MIGHT** happen, these are signs that you **WILL** see during the summer. Dealing with drought stress turf in our area is equivalent to dealing with gnats during baseball season..... it's going to happen, so be prepared when it does.

When you see that your turf is under drought stress then you will want to start repairing the turf by inspecting your irrigation system. Start your irrigation system and run through the system to make sure all the heads are working properly. If there are any issues with the system then you need to fix them. Most often than not, the stress can be improved with changing out broken irrigation heads or repositioning the heads to give more coverage to the stressed area. If the heads are not the issue, take a look at:

- the water pressure
- the time of day the system is watering
- objects in the way of the flow of water
- the amount of time watering on each zone

The stressed areas of turf will start to disappear with the growth of new grass. Remember to give the turf time to heal, it will not heal overnight. You also want to make sure that you do not walk on the stressed areas unless you need to and make sure the blades on your mower are sharp and are set to high. Having healthy turf is possible but just keep in mind that having healthy turf is a balancing act between man and nature.

## We're here for *you.*



**Helping your property look great is what we do, but making sure you're satisfied is what keeps us going.** We've learned that when we focus on complete customer satisfaction, all the rest falls in line.

**We're here for you** - to follow up on work we've done for you, to answer questions or to discuss further improvements to your outside spaces.

**We count on the good name we've built with our customers to get new business.** If you have a friend, neighbor or co-worker in need of landscape services, we'd appreciate you recommending us. We'd like to meet them and work with them to beautify their landscapes, too.

**Of course, it's always a great pleasure to get a call from a current customer about a new project.** Please call us anytime. We'd love to hear from you.



Have a question or concern? We're here to help.

Contact the **COASTAL GREENERY** Team

**(912) 261-8171 | COASTALGREENERY.COM**    