

## Grounds Drought Policy

**Drought Monitor** (Intensity scale issued by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration))

- 1) Abnormally Dry
- 2) Moderate Drought
- 3) Severe Drought
- 4) Extreme Drought
- 5) Exceptional Drought

The following plans will be put in place when local conditions meet the listed drought intensities.

### Abnormally Dry Conditions

- 1) Reduce mowing on non-irrigated turf
- 2) Set irrigation systems to run 3 days a week
- 3) Water annuals 3 days per week, M-W-F (water with water wagons and drip hoses)
- 4) Water 1-2 year old trees/shrubs 2 days per week, Tu-Th (water with water wagons, gator bags and drip hoses)

-During abnormally dry conditions, if fully staffed, Grounds will be able to water all of the annual flowers and 1-2 year old trees without affecting other daily maintenance needs.

### Moderate Drought Conditions

- 1) Stop mowing low level turf areas
- 2) Reduce mowing on irrigated areas
- 3) Continue to set the irrigation systems to run 3 days a week
- 4) Water annuals 3 days per week, M-W-F (water with water wagons and drip hoses)
- 5) Water 1-3 year old trees 2 days per week, Tu-Th (water with water wagons, gator bags and drip hoses)
- 6) Water select established perennial beds once a week, M (overhead sprinklers and drip hoses)

-During moderate drought conditions, if fully staffed, Grounds will be watering the annual flowers, 1-3 year old trees and select perennial beds. Reduced mowing, due to the dry conditions, allows us to provide these services with minimal impact to the daily maintenance needs of campus. Expect to start seeing outward signs of stress on trees planted within two or three years and established trees located in parking islands and parkways. The turf will also start to go dormant and appear off color to brown.

### Severe Drought Conditions

- 1) Stop mowing all non-irrigated turf
- 2) Reduce mowing on irrigated turf
- 3) Reduce irrigation systems to 2 days per week, longer cycles
- 4) Water 1-3 year old trees and select \*specimen trees 3 days per week, Tu-W-Th (water with water wagons, gator bags and drip hoses)
- 5) Deeply water annual ground beds once per week, M (water with water wagons and drip hoses)

- 6) Water annual flower containers and urns twice a week, M-F (water with water wagons and drip hoses)
- 7) Water select perennial beds once per week, F (overhead sprinklers and drip hoses)

-During severe drought conditions, even fully staffed, Grounds will not be able to keep up with the watering of 1-3 year old trees, select \*specimen trees, annuals and perennial beds without reducing the following services: sanitation, mulching, leaf pick-up and weed control. Expect to see several stressed trees with early leaf drop, annual beds to become weak, wilted and weedy, stressed and weedy perennial beds and straw brown turf.

#### **Extreme Drought Conditions**

- 1) Reduce or stop mowing irrigated turf except the President's House
- 2) Irrigation systems to once per week except the President's House
- 3) Water 1-3 year old trees/shrubs and select \*specimen trees 3 days per week, M-W-F (water with water wagons, gator bags and drip hoses)
- 4) Water 3-5 year old stressed trees/shrubs 2 days per week, Tu-Th (water with water wagons, gator bags and drip hoses)
- 5) Stop watering annuals and perennials

-During extreme drought conditions, even fully staffed, Grounds will not be able to keep up with the watering of 1-5 year old trees and select \*specimen trees without reducing the following services: watering annuals, perennials, sanitation, mulching, leaf pick-up and weed control. Expect to see several mature trees stressed with early leaf drop, annual and perennial beds will wilt and die becoming mostly weeds, straw brown/orange turf, and irrigated turf will brown and become dormant.

#### **Exceptional Drought Conditions**

- 1) Shut irrigation systems down (water conservation effort)
- 2) No mowing of any turf
- 3) Water trees/shrubs 1-5 year old that are in at least in fair health or better 3 days per week, M-W-F (water with water wagons, gator bags and drip hoses)
- 4) Water select specimen trees 2 days per week, Tu-Th (water with water wagons, gator bags and drip hoses)

-During exceptional drought conditions, even fully staffed, Grounds will not be able to keep up with the watering of fair condition or better 1-5 year old trees and select \*specimen trees without reducing the following services: watering annuals, perennials, sanitation, mulching, leaf pick-up and weed control. Expect to see all mature trees stressed with early leaf drop, annual and perennial beds will be dead with only weeds, all turf will be straw brown/orange.

\*See specimen tree list

