

When Do I Water My Lawn?

We have endured a few weeks with almost no rain. This week, I observed wilting areas in my lawn. Once the hot part of the day sets in, dry spots in the grass will actually start going dormant. This is characterized by a silver color of the grass. We need to start thinking about watering our lawns at this time.

Apply water when signs of moisture stress (e.g., wilt) are observed on 30 to 50 percent of the lawn. For most turfgrass species, wilted turfgrasses will have a dull to bluish-green color, leaf blade folding or rolling, and footprints will remain visible for a minute or longer after walking over the area.

The key to managing our lawn's water requirements during periods of drought is to get the right amount of water down to the roots. We need about one inch of water on our lawns each week. Apply enough water to wet the soil 6 to 8 inches deep. This is usually equivalent to one inch of water or 600 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet.

If your soil is very sandy, we can split this one inch into two half inch waterings. If the soil is more loam or clay, it has a greater water holding capacity. For these soils, we can water once a week.

Last week, I noticed the