



! HEAT ADVISORIES!

As the summer heat intensifies, heat advisories become a reality. These advisories significantly threaten your trees, shrubs, container plants, and turf. The elevated temperatures lead to increased water consumption by all plants. Your active involvement in countering these conditions, mainly if you have recently planted, is essential and cost-effective. You are responsible for providing additional water and safeguarding your plants' well-being!

Given the potential water restrictions with your irrigation systems, hand watering is a powerful and efficient tool to provide your plants with the extra water they need. It allows you to water only where it's needed, avoiding the wastage of a large volume of water. Begin with trees, shrubs, and container plantings. If you observe wilting or initial signs of burned leaves, respond immediately by adding extra water to prevent leaf scorch.

Fortunately, turf has a higher tolerance and quicker recovery from drought than other plants. Even hand watering can benefit turf if you're willing to spend some time in your yard with a water hose. So, be at ease—your turf is resilient and should bounce back.

For July, you want to run your irrigation twice a week, very early in the morning. Be prepared—this hot weather may last several weeks, so remain vigilant until the fall brings cooler temperatures.

IDENTIFYING DEAD TREES

By Dr. Moon

The freeze event in December 2023, compounded by the earlier damage from Winter Storm Uri, had a devastating impact on trees. The abrupt cold snap and prolonged freezing weather severely harmed the trees' vascular systems and caused the buds on the branches to freeze, resulting in the death of many trees. The freezing temperatures caused the water in the cells to freeze and expand, ultimately destroying the buds and vascular systems.

Many trees died quickly after these events, while others survived due to the wet, cooler spring and early summer. Trees that have not yet died may display vertical freeze cracks on the trunks and large branches, with many of them having all major canopy limbs dead. If the tree only has cracks on the trunk, it may go either way – the splits may heal, or the tree will slowly die from the damaged vascular system. Many of you may just now be experiencing tree death due to the stress of hot summer temperatures.

Some trees have dead branches in the canopy but are producing leaves on the trunk. These trees are producing leaves on the weakest tree buds. Trees have four levels of buds: primary, secondary, tertiary, and latent or adventitious. The primary buds are the strongest, and the tree also has three backup levels of buds. In cases of severe freeze, many trees may produce leaves on the adventitious buds, also known as sucker growth. If your tree has died throughout the canopy but you see new leaves only on the trunk, the tree should be removed and replaced because the trunk tissue will rot where the major canopy limbs were removed. The adventitious buds have no connection to the top growth of the tree, and the sucker growth will always be weak and cause continual problems. If 50% of your tree's canopy is missing, it should also be removed and replaced.

October and November are ideal times to replant dead trees, allowing them to root over winter and adapt before the summer heat.

Try Adding Unique & Interesting Plants to Enhance Your Landscape

Dwarf Ginkgo



Smoketree "Winecraft" Black



American Beauty Berry



Turk's Cap



Magnolia "Teddy Bear"



Barberry "Orange Rocket"





HOMEOWNER SERVICES

- Social Media Videos
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - TikTok
 - YouTube

Scan here for
more information



July 2024 Issue of *Gardening by the Moon*

