Is your lawn under stress from lack of water?

Check your lawn daily to see any tell-tale signs of stress, such as:

- grass blades start to fold/curl up and close
- a silver grey look starts to appear
- the grass starts to go brown and starts dying
- It is not establishing a sound root system

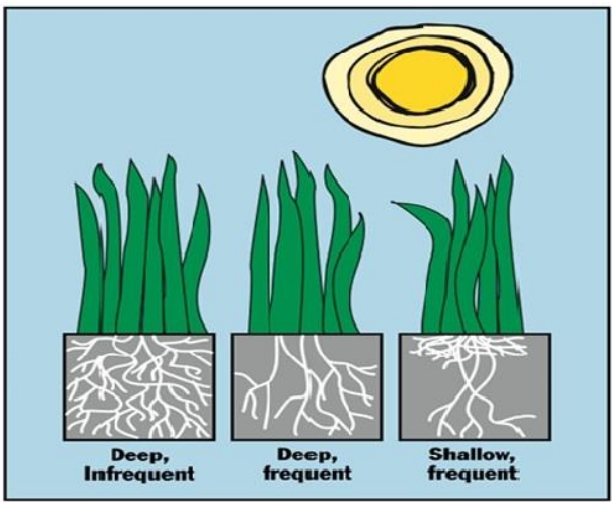
Water starved grass loses its lustre as it gradually changes colour from the nice dark green shade we are all used to seeing, to a dull blue-green or even greyish-green tint. This is the first sign of a lawn going dormant from lack of water. As conditions worsen, the colour may continue to decline to a tan or straw colour.

Another sign to look for in any stressed lawn is when walking across the lawn it leaves easy to see footprints. Check to see if the grass quickly rebounds after being walked on.

A drought stressed lawn does not rebound, and foot impressions can be seen for a much longer time.

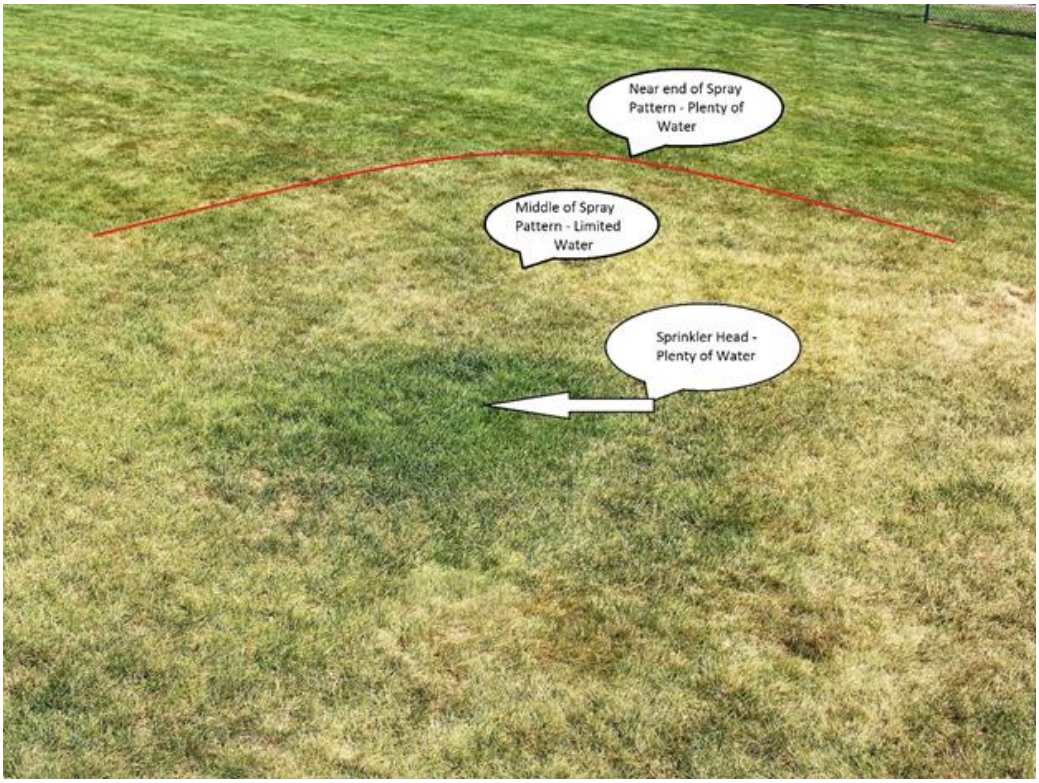
Keep in mind different lawns react differently to drought stress. A healthy lawn with deep roots will handle hot dry weather much better than a lawn that is not as well established or that has a shallow root system.

Water Amount:



All lawns benefit from receiving approximately 40mm of water per week. Just as important to the amount of water depends on how the watering is applied. Watering less often and more deeply helps grass establish deeper roots. Watering daily or for only short periods of time keeps roots near the surface, and the whole of the lawn is then weaker and less able to handle the hot dry weather. The 40mm should be applied over 4 waterings during the week to be most effective.

Checking water coverage is also important. Seeing greener grass around sprinkler heads is a sure sign the application of water is not even. The same holds true for areas between sprinkler heads. In some cases, the sprinkler heads hit far away or in close and do not water as well in the middle of the area. Never assume that just because all the heads pop up that the lawn is getting evenly watered.



STEP 1: Check the condition of the sprinklers

1. Take the sprinkler heads off and check whether the heads have any build-up of scale. If scale is present, place the sprinkler heads in a container of CLR which is a calcium remover.
2. Place clean sprinkler heads back on the sprinkler body.

STEP 2: Testing your sprinkler application rates

Catch cups (graduated measuring containers) are a valuable tool for testing how efficiently an irrigation system is operating and the sprinkler application rates. In place of catch cups any vertical sided container will suffice, such as a coffee cup or a small ice cream container.

To test, you should:

- Spread catch cups randomly around the watering zone
- Time how long it takes the sprinklers to fill the catch cups to the depth of 10mm - this is the standard watering for an area of sandy soil.

Once you have your reading, adjust your irrigation controller to allow for a standard watering of 10mm using the time taken to fill the cups.

The best time to water your lawn is just before sunrise as our soil has very little water holding capacity. This allows the plant to take up the water as the plant is most active from sunrise till about 11am. Most of the growing is done at this time. If your lawn has no moisture it cannot grow.

If you require any additional information contact our team at sales@reenacresturfgroup.com.au or phone 08 9525 8800