

Here Comes the Sun!

By Kathy Robinson

Well, I think we all new the "Beach Weather" wasn't here to stay. But there is nothing wrong with dreaming! We are now faced with the cruel reality of B'field heat. Here are some tips on how to deal.....in the garden that is.

First of all watering. This year plants will probably be in a little shock. The warm up looks like it is going to be pretty abrupt. The cool temps promote lots of new Spring growth, with no gradual warm up there may be lots of heat stress. Make sure your sprinklers are set for deep soaking! One long watering or 2 shorter waterings in the early morning are ideal. The multiple waterings are designed to compensate for run off. This method is used if your experiencing water run off before you can achieve the deep soak you need to get roots down. 5 minutes is not enough water! Check down 6-8 inches and see if the soil is wet after you water, a couple of inches will not be enough to establish healthy roots or see your plants through a day of 100 degrees.

After you make sure your getting deep water then work on how often.....Don't water unless the soil is dry. In early Summer you may have times that you readjust the clock. If your soil isn't drying out you may not need to water every day! Green moss on top of the ground, or squishy (technical term) soil means shut the clock of until the soil dries out! On the other had sandy soil may need water everyday. Walk your yard and take a look at what's going on.

Second point.....Newly planted items (and we at Robby's hope there are lots of them) need individual attention. When planting, you will always need to do additional watering. That's in addition to the sprinkler water. When you first plant hand watering is essential. A "water well" the same size as the root ball needs to be placed around the new plants. Sprinklers will not put enough water directly over the root ball to keep that plant alive. Once in the early morning is usually sufficient. This is even more important with full bushy plants that can deflect most of the sprinkler water.

Next, make sure you mulch well when you plant, you can also mulch on top of the ground to help hold moisture. Don't, on the other hand, pile the mulch around the base of the plant. This practice will smother your plants much like being planted too deep.

My forth and final tip is, Continue to fertilize through out the Summer. Good nutrition will help the plants deal with our extreme heat. Feed when the soil is damp, not soggy wet, but damp. Never feed a totally dry plant. You need to water after applying granular food, not necessary after liquid feed. The best time to feed is early morning (the same is true for weed and pest spraying). In fact the best time for us being out there is also early AM!

Keep up the good work, Summer can be the best time to enjoy your garden.
Just be careful when your out there, and don't forget you Hat!

Up coming Events at Robby's Nursery
48th Anniversary Sale June 12-20

"Cooking with Herbs Class"
June 24 6:00 in the evening
\$20 limited enrollment

Kathy Robinson.....Planting and Care of Herbs
John McFee and Leslie Dunn Myers.....Cooking with Herbs
Annette Mojica.....Wine Tips