

July 2011 Tips

by Donna Hagar, Somervell County Master Gardener

Yes, it is hot and dry! Crispy, crunchy might be better words. But there are some things we, as homeowners, can do to help protect our landscapes and treasured plants during this extended drought period.

Begin with mulch, mulch, mulch. Hopefully you already have a good 4 inch layer of mulch on all of your landscape beds. If not, add more! This keeps not only the moisture in the ground, but helps keep the soil temperatures down as well.

Make sure you are mowing your turfgrass lawn at the proper heights. This time of year, mow at the highest setting for your type of grass. The additional height helps the grass act as a living mulch, holding in moisture and keeping soil temperature down.



Some of the best information can be found on the Aggie Horticulture website. Start [here](#) to watch a brief video and get some basic information. Or go directly to the [Earth-Kind® website](http://earthkind.tamu.edu/drought) (<http://earthkind.tamu.edu/drought>) for specific tips for drought management. You may even want to bookmark this website as one of your first stops for any horticulture related questions.