Meehan's Brookside LAWN SERVICE

Brown Lawn Areas from Drought Stress

What Caused My Lawn To Turn Brown?

There are many reasons for lawns to go brown. One of the most common problems is lack of rain fall, especially on heavily compacted soil.

As we leave spring behind and move forward and into summer, the days are getting longer and warmer and allowing the sun more time and heat to dry out the lawns. When this happens it only takes one week without an inch of rain or more to start turning the grass brown.

Once soil moisture gets low, turf grass will begin to wilt with turf color turning grey – green to bluish green. Eventually the grass turns yellow/brown. This is the plant going dormant as a way for the plant to survive.

Once the lawns are dried out it takes a lot of rain to get the lawn growing again. It takes 1 ½" of rain to get the lawn growing again. The lawn has to get growing again to grow out damaged (Brown) areas. Until the turf receives enough water, the lawn will not fully recover.



I Have Been Watering, So I Know The Lawn Is Not To Dry!

The best efforts may not provide enough water for the lawn. It may not be possible to adequately water a lawn with a lawn sprinkler during the long warm days of summer. Even clients that have sprinkler systems can have brown areas where the sprinklers do not overlap enough. The key is enough water. The lawn must get 1 ½" of water per week to stay green and growing. This can be measured by placing a straight sided container in the area the where the sprinkler is watering and only moving the sprinkler once there is 1 ½" of water is in the container.



You can set up a straight sided container to measure water amounts.

Some Lawns Show Signs of Drought Stress Sooner Than Others. Reasons Why?

- **Mowing Height-** 3 ½" or higher, often the highest setting on the mower!
- **Soil Conditions-** Clay content, PH, Phosphorus level in soil. It may be time for a soil sample!
- **Buried construction scraps-** Drywall, wood, concrete, and gravel
- **High content of Gravel in the soil-** Through nature or left over from construction
- **Thatch level-** Maintain thatch level at ¼" or less through regular core Aeration
- **Type and cultivar of Grass-** Older grass types may not be as drought tolerant.
- **Dull Mower Blades-** Blades must be sharpened at least once per year

(440) 243-8277 | www.meehanslawnservice.com