

## Summer presents turf care challenges

By Bill Teeter

Welcome to the hottest, driest part of the year, when lawns and gardens are under their greatest stress and homeowners wonder how they will get their drought-battered turf through the rest of the summer.

To help lawns property owners should delay mowing as long as possible. When mowing becomes necessary, set the mower high. Most experts point to 3 inches as being a good setting during the height of the heat.

Make sure the mower blades are sharp, as well. Dull blades shred leaves and shredded leaves mean wasted water.

Also, remember the City allows spot watering with a hand-held hose at any time, so use that allowance to help out areas that seem to need help getting through the next six weeks. For those who hand water, remember to do it at night or early in the morning (after 7 PM and before 10AM) to prevent excess evaporation.

Drip irrigation remains exempt from the Stage 3 drought restrictions and watering schedule in Horseshoe Bay, but should also only be done at night or early in the morning, as well.

One more point worth mention is that homeowners or businesses thinking of putting in new grass should consider holding off. It's difficult to get grass to establish itself this time of year and the city does not plan to grant variances to its drought watering rules for the extra watering needed for new grass until after Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

For questions about water conservation, Stage 3 watering rules, or to schedule an audit of your irrigation system, call me at 830-598-9973, or send an email to [bteeter@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov](mailto:bteeter@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov).