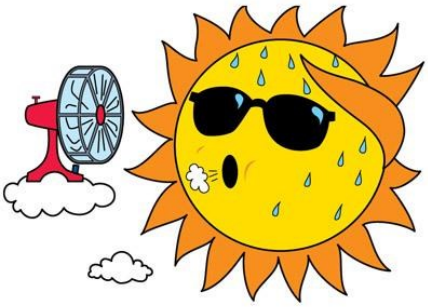
SBS GAZETTE

972-831-8181 April 2019

Gonna Get HOT Up In Here!?

Even though it seems like we have started off 2019 fairly wet, we have actually experienced a 40% reduction in the average level of rainfall normally experienced from January thru March. Does this mean we should expect to see a dryer than normal remainder of the year? This is obviously a difficult thing to predict, but we should start thinking in these terms given the early trends.



Poor plant growth is often related to an insufficiency of proper soil moisture rather than an insufficiency of rainfall (or irrigation). You may have noticed that some deep rooting plants, like trees in particular, may do really well during a year of less rain, if there was abundant rain in the prior year. In such cases the plant is benefiting from soil moisture storage from past years.

One of the major challenges within a landscape is the soil's ability to create appropriate stores of moisture, while not storing too much to the point of the soil becoming anaerobic. This balance becomes increasingly important as we experience less rainfall.

Furthermore, the amount of rainfall is not necessarily a good predictor of plant production. It all depends upon the soil's ability to appropriately handle and store the rainfall. Rainfall-water efficiency can be reduced by unproductive losses through surface runoff, evaporation through bare soil surfaces, and evaporation resulting from tilling/aeration.

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