

Irrigation

Our testing of our irrigation wells continues on a 6 months basis. The last test was not very good with regard to the salt content, so we sent in new samples and while they were better we thought we'd share an email about the matter from Dennis Halemkamp, our landscaper.

"I just received the results for the irrigation water at Crosscreek.

- Woodstream Entrance Pump: 1,800 PPM (TDS)
- Pebblebrook Entrance Pump: 2,600 PPM (TDS)

Salt draws water away from the roots. Plants that are salt sensitive will not do well and may die. (i.e. Azaleas) Homeowners can do a Google search to find out information about their plants. St. Augustine turf is moderately salt tolerant, so it should be okay.

Plants naturally show signs of stress during times of low rainfall. November is historically the driest month of the year, but we normally have cooler temperatures.

April & May are historically the second and third driest months of the year, but temperatures are normally hotter.

Heat, rainfall, & humidity are the key factors effecting drought.

Drought Stress: Moisture leaves the plant faster than it can be replenished by the roots. The effects of a drought will be magnified with the presence of salt. We recommend homeowners use un-softened potable water to irrigate the shrubs, and possibly the turf during periods of drought. Homeowners can simply use a hose. This will help wash some of the salt build-up through the soil, provide needed water to the plants, and help them survive until it rains again.

FYI, we have not had any significant rainfall for 8 weeks. It has been unusually hot, and the atmosphere has been on the drier side. Currently we are experiencing a mild drought.

Sincerely,
Dennis Halemkamp

(Ref. **Cross Creek Communique, 12/01/2016**)