

Dead or Dormant?

A typical lawn in Western Pa. is a mixture of cool season grasses including Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescue and perennial rye. These grasses naturally go dormant during periods of hot, dry weather and will often look brown and dead, but the roots and crowns of the plants are still alive and will be ready to resume growth as soon as growing conditions improve.

•**How will you know if your lawn is going dormant from drought like conditions?**

•**Some initial indications are**

•**Footprints** or tire tracks remaining visible in your lawn.

•**Cracked soil** and gaps that appear in areas near driveways and sidewalks

•**Bare spots** and Patches of dry soil visible where grass should be

So, What can you do to ensure that your lawn will come out of summer dormancy with little to no damage?

Watering enough to fill a tuna can at least once every 7 to 10 days will allow lawn to stay dormant while ensuring the grass plants have enough moisture to remain healthy, minimize foot traffic on your lawn if possible, and consider aerating and overseeding once the heat and dry conditions of summer are over and the grass begins to actively grow again.

If the crown of your grass plant is white, your grass is alive and dormant

