

## A Dynamic Duo That Can Help Your Lawn Weather The Drought

by Brett Briant | LCRA Water Conservation Coordinator

Some things just go together, and mulch and compost are two of them. When used together, this formidable pair not only improves your garden and lawn, but they also use water more efficiently.

The combo is important as many of us move to maximum once-a-week watering during this time of severe drought. The pair can help your landscaping survive the drought because plants will be more disease tolerant and water efficient, thereby better able to defend themselves against the drought.

Using a hardwood mulch/compost blend is the best choice for retaining water and improving your soil. The mix will hold its color longer, and the compost will help break down the mulch, which will become a beneficial nutrient for your soil.

However, if you choose to go with one or the other, keep in mind that you can use compost as mulch, but you can't do the opposite. You can't use straight mulch as compost – it's too hard on its own and takes too long to break down and become a beneficial micro-organism to your soil. Mulch should smell like a fresh forest floor. A mulch/compost blend should have a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of about 20-to-1. That's 20 percent carbon to 1 percent nitrogen. When applying this to your existing soil, a soil depth of at least six inches is highly recommended. You can build your soil with

the mulch and compost through either core aeration, where you remove approximately 1 inch by 2 inch cores of soil from the ground to improve the infiltration of water/nutrients, or through light scarifying with a rototiller to remove any debris from the lawn.

A good layer of mulch of about two to four inches in your garden will help suppress weeds. It will also hold in moisture in the heat, and help keep the soil warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. If you are using it as a top dressing to improve the soil on your lawn, you will want to apply a layer of compost that is one-fourth of an inch to one-half of an inch deep.

Another benefit of adding compost to most types of soil, including clay, sandy, alkaline or acidic, is that compost has natural pH buffers. That's the microbiology or bacteria in the soil that creates a healthy environment for your plants. The pH level should be close to neutral, which is a pH of 7. If you add compost to your lawn and compost/mulch to your beds, you will build the soil profile to be much more water efficient and increase its capacity to hold water. The soil will be able to drain and breathe.

Using mulch and compost together is a cost-efficient way to build your soil. They're relatively inexpensive and will help cut down on your water bill. It's a pair you want on your team.

## Constable Report for February 2014

*for all of Briarhills (POA and HOA)*

Accident/Minor.....	1
Alarm Local.....	6
Alarm/Sil/Pan/HU.....	1
Arson/Fire.....	1
Check Park.....	4
Check School.....	1
Contract Check.....	157
Dist. /Loud Noise.....	1
Dist. /Weapon.....	1
Evading.....	1
Follow Up.....	1
Incident Report.....	4
Information Call.....	6
Meet the Citizen.....	6
Neighborhood Chk.....	7
Open Door/Window.....	1
Parking Lot Chk.....	3
Robbery/Agg.....	1
Solicitors.....	7
Suspicious Person.....	9
Traffic Initiative.....	10
Traffic Stop.....	7
Vacation Watch.....	82
Vehicle Speeding.....	2
Vehicle Suspicious.....	7
Welfare Check.....	1
<b>Total Calls.....</b>	<b>328</b>

*The robbery was at 1 PM on February 15th in the 1200 block of Forest Home.*

*See the Briarhills.org Security Data page for more information.*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Emergency .....	911
Constable ( <i>Closest Law Enforcement</i> ).....	281-463-6666
Poison Help .....	1-800-222-1222
Library and Community Center.....	832-393-1880
City Services.....	Call 311
Citizens' Assistance.....	713-247-1888
Public Works.....	713-837-0600
Neighborhood Protection.....	713-525-2525
Animal Control.....	713-229-7300
Wild animal problem .....	713-861-9453
Hazardous waste.....	713-551-7355

### OTHER UTILITY SERVICES

Street light problem.....	713-207-2222
.....	(then 1 then 4)
Power out/emergency .....	713-207-2222
Gas leak suspected.....	713-659-2111
Before you dig.....	Call 811

### BRIARHILLS SERVICES

Trash collection .....	713-733-1600
Amenity tags .....	281-558-7422
Tennis courts.....	281-558-7422
Pool parties.....	281-558-7422
Clubhouse rental .....	281-558-7422
Marquee messages .....	281-558-7422

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# DON'T BE SIDELINED BY HEARTBURN

With college basketball's March Madness comes plenty of dribbling and dunking – both on the court and on the couch or at the local sports bar. But following a few tips from Dr. Wagar Qureshi, associate professor of medicine and chief of endoscopy at Baylor College of Medicine, means basketball fans won't have to worry about heartburn and can concentrate instead on those all-important brackets.

-Sit up. Lying down or reclining after a meal makes it easier for stomach acid to move up into the esophagus, causing heartburn.

-Eat in moderation. If you can't give up cheesy nachos, then say no to hot wings, or else eat smaller portions.

-If you know a particular food triggers heartburn, Qureshi suggests avoiding it altogether.

-Wear loose-fitting garb.

-Take an over-the-counter antacid for fast relief.

If you find yourself taking antacids three or more times a week, your heartburn is more than just game-related. Frequent symptoms could signal chronic Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), which afflicts more than 7 million Americans annually.



## Sugar, Heart & Life

A program called Sugar, Heart and Life: A Guide to Living with Diabetes is available for people dealing with the disease. The interactive and fun program developed by Baylor College of Medicine's department of family and community medicine offers information on how individuals with type 2 diabetes can manage their diabetes. The SHL program includes recipes, practical tips and games on diet, exercise, and medication. The program allows users to follow a year in the life of the Gonzalez family as they learn more about managing diabetes and help them make decisions that will keep their family healthy.

All diabetes management recommendations contained in this program are consistent with clinical practice recommendations of the American Diabetes Association and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Recipe Box was adapted from heart healthy recipes from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

*Sugar, Heart and Life can be found at  
[www.bcm.edu/shl](http://www.bcm.edu/shl).*



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# - Kids Stuff -

Section for Kids with news, puzzles, games and more!



When it's hot outside and you've been sweating, you get thirsty. Why? Thirst can be a sign of dehydration (say: dee-hye-DRAY-shun). Dehydration means that your body doesn't have enough water in it to keep it working right. A person gets water by drinking and eating. You lose water when you sweat, urinate (pee), have diarrhea, or throw up. You even lose a little water when you breathe. Our bodies need water to work properly. Usually, you can make up for the water you lose — like when you come in from outside and have a long, cool drink of water. If you don't replace the water your body has lost, you might start feeling sick. And if you go too long without the water you need, you can become very ill and might need to go to the hospital.

## WHY AM I DEHYDRATED?

Many times kids get dehydrated when they're playing hard and having fun. Have you ever gotten really sweaty and red-faced when you've been playing? This often happens when it's hot outside, but it can happen indoors, too, like if you're practicing basketball in a gym. Kids also can get dehydrated when they're sick. If you have a stomach virus, you might throw up or have diarrhea (say: dye-uh-REE-uh) or both. On top of that, you probably don't feel very much like eating or drinking. If you have a sore throat, you might find it hard to swallow food or drink. And if you have a fever, you can lose fluids because water evaporates from your skin in an attempt to cool your body down. That's why your mom or dad tells you to drink a lot of fluids when you're sick.

## SIGNS OF DEHYDRATION

In addition to being thirsty, here are some signs that a person might be dehydrated:

- feeling lightheaded, dizzy, or tired
- rapid heartbeat
- dry lips and mouth

Another sign of dehydration is not peeing as much. Normally, urine should be a pale yellow color. Dark or strong-smelling pee can be a sign of dehydration.

## WHAT TO DO

If you can, try not to get dehydrated in the first place. If you're going to be going outside, it's a good idea to drink water before,

during, and after you play, especially if it's hot. Dehydration can happen along with heat-related illnesses, such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. In addition to drinking water, it's smart to dress in cool clothes and take breaks indoors or at least in the shade.

If you're sick, keep taking small sips of drinks like water or diluted juice, even if you're not that thirsty or hungry. Eating an icepop is a great way to get fluids. How is an icepop a liquid? Well, it's basically frozen water and flavoring. The warmth in your mouth and stomach turns it from a solid to a liquid. Other foods, such as fruits and vegetables, contain water, too, but if your stomach is not feeling well you might not be ready for them.

## DO I NEED A DOCTOR?

Some cases of dehydration can be handled at home. But sometimes, that isn't enough to get a kid feeling better. A kid may need to go to the doctor or emergency room if he or she has a heat-related illness or a virus with vomiting or diarrhea that just won't quit. At the hospital, the good news is that an intravenous (say: in-truh-VEE-nus) (IV) line can get fluids into your body fast. An IV line is a special tube (like a very thin straw) that goes right into your vein, so the liquid goes right to where your body needs it most. It may pinch a little when the nurse is inserting it, but it will help you feel much better.

## THIRST-QUENCHING TIPS

So do you have to drink eight glasses of water a day? No, but you do need to drink enough to satisfy your thirst, and maybe a little extra if you're sick or if you're going to be exercising.

The best drink is water, of course, but milk is another great drink for kids. Juice is OK, but choose it less often than water and milk. Sports drinks are fine once in a while, but water should be considered the drink of champions. Limit soda and other sugary drinks, such as fruit punches, lemonades, and iced teas. These drinks contain a lot of sugar that your body doesn't need. Some of them also contain caffeine, which can cause you to urinate (pee) more often than normal. In other words, it tells your body to get rid of fluids. And as you now know, that's the opposite of what you need to do if you're dehydrated!

*Reviewed by: Mary L. Gavin, MD Date reviewed: July 2013*

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit [www.KidsHealth.org](http://www.KidsHealth.org) or [www.TeensHealth.org](http://www.TeensHealth.org). ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation



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Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



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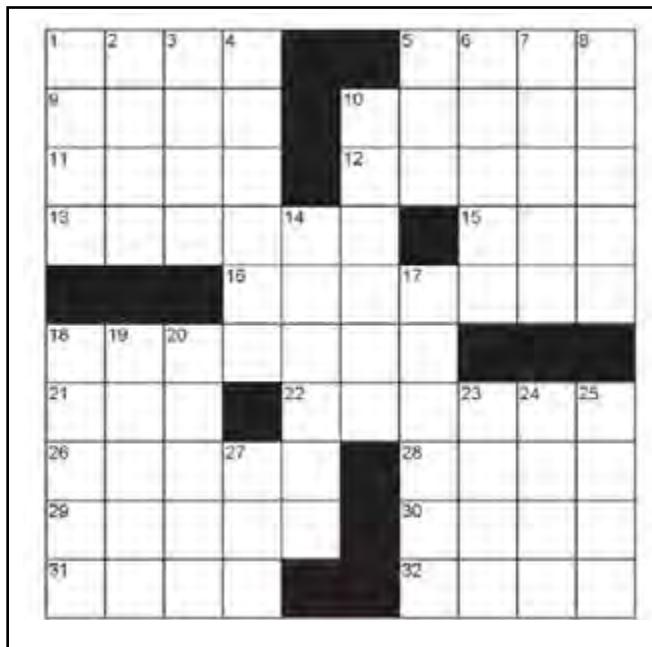
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### ACROSS

1. Grabs
5. Capital of Western Samoa
9. Healing plant
10. Canned chili brand
11. Baby powder
12. Howdy
13. Mexican food brand
15. Billion years
16. Smash
18. In abundance
21. Scarf
22. Prejudice
26. Living
28. National capital
29. Fathers
30. Margarine
31. Entertainer
32. Nightly tv show

### DOWN

1. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
2. Winged
3. Fastening device
4. What the confederates tried to do
5. Dined
6. Whiter
7. Ice house
8. Hurting
10. Brand of soda
14. Literature
17. Baron
18. Embarrass
19. Crippling disease
20. Dens
23. Island
24. Killed
25. Cow noises
27. Animal doctor

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