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How dry I am. How dry I am. How dry I am...

Weather records have been kept in Colorado since 1872. In the Denver / Boulder reporting station, these statistics have been recorded over the past year.

- Least snowiest – February 2009
- Tenth driest – January 2009
- Fifth driest – April 2008
- Third driest – March and July 2008

July 2008 took honors as the third hottest in history. On August 2, the mercury climbed for 24 consecutive days over 90 degrees – smashing the previous record of 18 days.

Your landscape took it hard last year. Many trees and shrubs went into early fall dormancy. Early fall dormancy equates to lower starch reserves for this past winter and early 2009.

Cool season bluegrass isn't immune to heat and drought damage either. Many large patches went dormant in the summer of 2008, not recovering till fall.

Now, your entire landscape – trees, shrubs, and lawn are suffering the ill effects of an abysmal winter snow cover and the absence of soil moisture. Now is a critical time for your outdoor plants.

Leaf and flower buds are expanding in anticipation for the 2009 display. Bud expansion takes water and stored energy – reserves that are already depleted from last year. Lawns are quickly awakening.

Without significant moisture – plant damage will occur – some landscaping may perish.

To help curb this damage, it is essential to water your trees, shrubs and lawn. At this time, the goal is to thoroughly wet the soil. The best way to accomplish this will be with hoses and sprinklers. A quick sprinkle to wet the soil followed by a longer cycle will be the most efficient.

For tips on tree watering visit www.myswingle.com and click on the Tree Care Drought Relief icon.