



Office of Emergency Management



Cuyahoga County  
Together We Thrive

# At-A-Glance Drought

Nearly every part of our country experiences periods of reduced rainfall. If we plan for drought, then we can enjoy the benefits of normal or rainy years and not get caught unprepared in dry years.

## Before a Drought...

- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it. For example, use it to water your indoor plants or garden.
- Check all plumbing for leaks and have any leaks repaired by a plumber.
- Install a water-softening system only when the minerals in the water would damage your pipes. Turn the softener off while on vacation.
- Install a toilet displacement device to cut down on the amount of water needed to flush. Place a one-gallon plastic jug of water into the tank to displace toilet flow (do not use a brick, it may dissolve and loose pieces may cause damage to the internal parts). Be sure installation does not interfere with the operating parts.
- Start a compost pile as an alternate method of disposing of food waste or simply dispose of food in the garbage. (Kitchen sink disposals require a lot of water to operate properly).
- Plant native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs, and trees. Once established, plants adapted to your local climate do not need water as frequently and usually will survive a dry period without watering. Group plants together based on similar water needs.
- Use mulch to retain moisture in the soil. Mulch also helps control weeds that compete with landscape plants for water.
- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture.

## During a Drought...

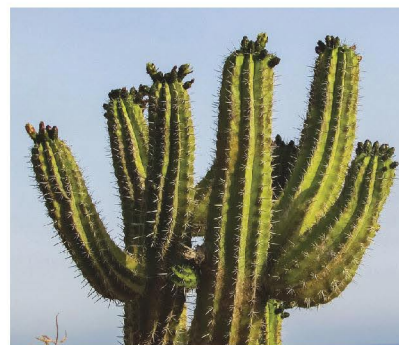
- Always observe state and local restrictions on water use during a drought. If restricted, for example, do not water your lawn, wash your car, or other non-essential uses, to help ensure there is enough water for essential uses. Contact your state or local government for current information and suggestions.

## Did You Know?

Drought also creates environmental conditions that increase the risk of other hazards such as wildfire, flash flood, and possible landslides and debris flow.

For additional information on drought, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



A Preparedness Resource from  
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