

# Get ready, feds say it's going to be dry

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It's not too early for lawn/landscape professionals to start developing strategies to help themselves, and their customers, through an extended drought, based on the federal government's spring predictions.

This may include:

- ▶ becoming informed about local water regulations and the people that make them,
- ▶ informing clients about the benefits of irrigation,
- ▶ offering irrigation, including repair and maintenance services,
- ▶ preparing literature for your customers explaining droughts and how you can help them,
- ▶ locking in product (turf seed, starter fertilizer, etc.) for fall renovations.

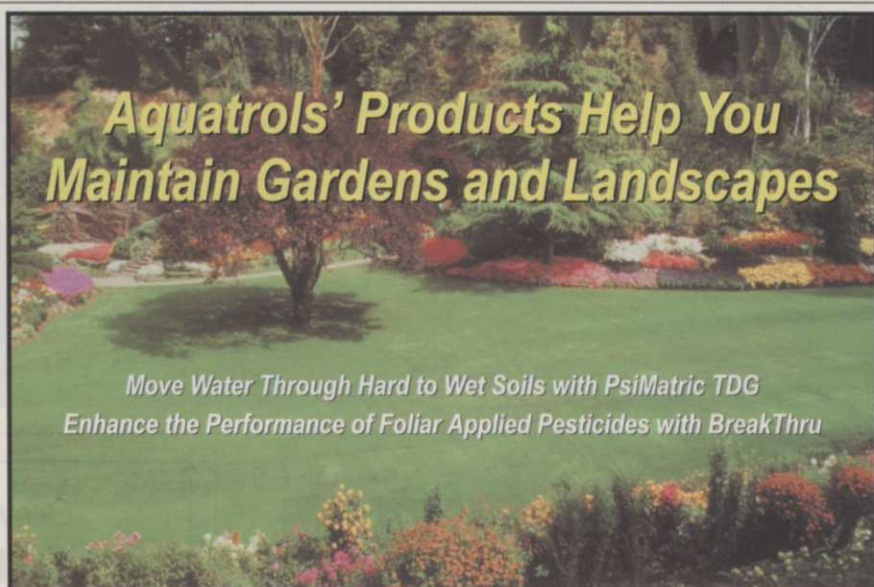
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that the areas impacted by this year's drought will parallel the drought of 1988, which was the most costly weather disaster in history with \$40 billion in losses. The average annual cost of droughts is over \$6 billion.

During the summer of 1999, large portions of the Mid Atlantic suffered a severe drought, which is expected to widen into the Appalachians and the southeast this season.

**"The news is not good. The drought of 1999 remains with us in the new century and our data indicate drought conditions are going to get worse before they get better."**  
— U.S. Commerce secretary William Daley

"The news is not good," said U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley. "The drought of 1999 remains with us in the new century and our data indicate drought conditions are probably going to get worse before they get better."

Experts continue to blame the La Nina weather pattern for causing this past winter to be the warmest on record in the United States, and the driest spring on record in several southern states.



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