

# MONSOON STORMS

“ *The Southwest experiences the most active monsoon storms throughout July and August.* ”



July and August find us squarely in monsoon season. While we welcome the summer rains, the vigorous storms present some challenges for plant material. As your landscape management provider, we are prepared to deal with the effects of monsoon events.

Prior to the monsoon season, DLC Resources, Inc. utilizes a proactive tree management program. Although strong storms and microbursts can damage any tree, we continually seek to minimize tree damage by identifying trees most likely to be severely affected by high winds. These trees are pruned to remove overly thick foliage and dead or structurally unsound branches to minimize the chance the tree will be damaged or cause damage during a storm.

When monsoon storms arrive, the emphasis shifts to clean-up and repair. Typically, the summer storms occur late in the day, after crews have left the property for the day. For immediate emergency aid, we have personnel on call 24 hours a day. These workers are equipped to deal with the most pressing effects of the storm, such as trees blocking streets or sidewalks. Full scale cleanup generally begins the following morning. Normal maintenance activities may need to be suspended or reduced in scope while the crew clean up debris and perform repairs. If necessary, extra personnel will be provided to expedite the storm cleanup.

In spite of the damage these summer storms can cause, there is a silver lining to the monsoon clouds: moisture! The monsoon presents us all with a great opportunity to save water. We assess the amount

of water each storm brings and suspend or adjust irrigation schedules appropriately. Not only is rainwater free, it is also superior to irrigation water due to its lower alkalinity. In addition to providing moisture, the rainwater helps leach accumulated salts away from the roots of shrubs, trees and turf.

## Assess Your Own Yard

You can benefit from similar pre-monsoon practices in your yard. Assess your trees and have dead branches removed. If the foliage in your tree is exceedingly thick and heavy, have the tree pruned. You may want to hire a Certified Arborist to do the assessment for you.

Following a storm, check the status of your irrigation controller. Power outages can reset irrigation clocks and schedules, and it may not be appropriate for the weather. If your property receives a substantial amount of rain, turn off your irrigation system. Be aware of your plant material and soil moisture in order to determine when the water needs to be turned on again. Overall, you may not need to water as much as you did in the drier months of May and June.

Even if it does not rain, be aware of high humidity; observe the condition of your plants and check the moisture of your soil. The best way to check soil moisture is to stick a screwdriver in the ground. If you are able to insert the screwdriver easily to approximately six inches, there is enough moisture in the soil. If you have difficulty, you may need to apply more water.

