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## Preparing for Drought

Today on Gardening in a Minute: preparing for drought.

In Florida, we may not be able to predict how much rain we'll get, but drought is always a possibility. So when you're designing your landscape, it's always a good idea to consider choosing low-water use plants, which are Florida-friendly.

No matter which types of plants you install, make sure you group plants with similar water needs together. It's better to water plants, including lawn grass, less frequently but deeply. This stimulates deeper rooting, which will help plants get through dry spells.

Use fertilizer carefully, especially in the summer. The nutrients will encourage lots of water-hungry new growth. Mow your lawn high, which stimulates the growth of deeper roots and will help reduce water needs.

With preparation, both you and your landscape will be ready for dry times.

For more information about preparing for drought, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.

your solution for Florida-friendly gardening