

bermudagrass. Additional research is being conducted to solidify the actual DLI requirements for these turfgrasses, as well as how the DLI values actually translate to turfgrass grown in the landscape.

With preliminary data in-hand, how can this information be used by homeowners, landscapers, and turf managers? New technology is in development to make determining the amount of light in a landscape as easy as a push of a button. Spectrum Technologies has developed the DLI100 – a device that can be placed in the desired location and then left for a period of 24 hours. During this time, the instrument collects light quantity based on one complete day, and then returns a DLI range value. Of course, this number can vary due to cloud cover and other factors, so a few days should be used to get an average. Sites with existing turfgrass can also be evaluated to determine if a decline in quality is due to low light or another culprit. We are evaluating this instrument in our research program.

Continued research in the area of the effects of low light

should help us have a better understanding of DLI need of our warm-season grasses and their responses.

With these results, sod growers and marketers will be able to help clients choose the most appropriate turfgrass for their site, improving the satisfaction of all parties involved.



*About the Author:* A native of southern California, **Brian Glenn** will graduate from the University of Florida / IFAS in 2014 with a PhD in Environmental Horticulture. He received his B.S. from Brigham Young University and a master's in Agronomy from the University of Florida.

His current work includes determining light levels for optimal turf growth and the effect of shade duration and temperature on turfgrass growth and development. He plans to pursue a career working with turf managers to identify and solve future challenges within the industry.

## SFWMD: November Edges All-Time Dry Record for the Month

*Despite scant rainfall, regional water supplies remain adequate*

West Palm Beach, FL— The first month of South Florida's dry season edged out the long-standing record rainfall low for November, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported on December 3.

The District-wide rainfall average of 0.29 inches in November was just 0.01 below the previous record low of 0.30 inches in both 1940 and 1944, based on District records since 1932. All 16 counties in the District were more than 1.5 inches below average for November, which is typically one of the driest months in South Florida.

"With the benefit of above-average wet season rainfall, regional groundwater and surface water levels fortunately were in a position to 'weather' a record dry month," said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau.

Eastern Palm Beach County had the largest rainfall deficit in the District, with 0.69 inches of rain, representing a deficit of 3.46 inches, or 17 percent of average. The Upper Kissimmee Basin and Martin, St. Lucie and eastern Miami-Dade counties all recorded rainfall deficits of more than 2 inches for the month. The East Caloosahatchee Basin also recorded more than a 2-inch rainfall deficit while the Southwest Coast recorded a 1.88-inch deficit. Lake Okeechobee stood at 15.10 feet NGVD today, which is 0.30 feet above the historic average for this time of year.

### 2012-2013 Dry Season Forecast

South Florida is forecast to experience one of the few dry

seasons having near-average rainfall in the past 14 years. Only two dry seasons, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004, have actually been about the historical average in that timeframe, with two above average and 10 below average dry seasons. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center forecast calls for equal chances of slightly above or slightly below average rainfall for the first three months of the upcoming dry season.

Among the official forecast highlights for the 2012 - 2013 South Florida dry season:

- Near normal precipitation is mostly likely during the first part of the dry season, from November to February
- A drier-than-normal trend may characterize March and April
- Average dry season precipitation: 12 to 15 inches in the interior and west to 15 to 21 inches in the east

**Update, December 13:** Following the District's record-dry November, excessive rainfall fell over parts of the District in the past few days. Rainfall maximums of 10 to 12 inches were recorded in the Jupiter area over a 24-hour period starting Dec. 11. During the same timeframe, the Lake Kissimmee basin averaged a beneficial 4.03 inches, and the West Collier basin's 6.06 inches of rain boosted water levels. Lake Okeechobee currently stands at 15.16 feet; the historical average is 14.73 feet. The Lake stood at 13.78 as of December 13, 2011.

- Source: SFWMD News Release.  
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