

THE DROUGHT IS NOT OVER!

John Dromgoole
The Natural Gardener

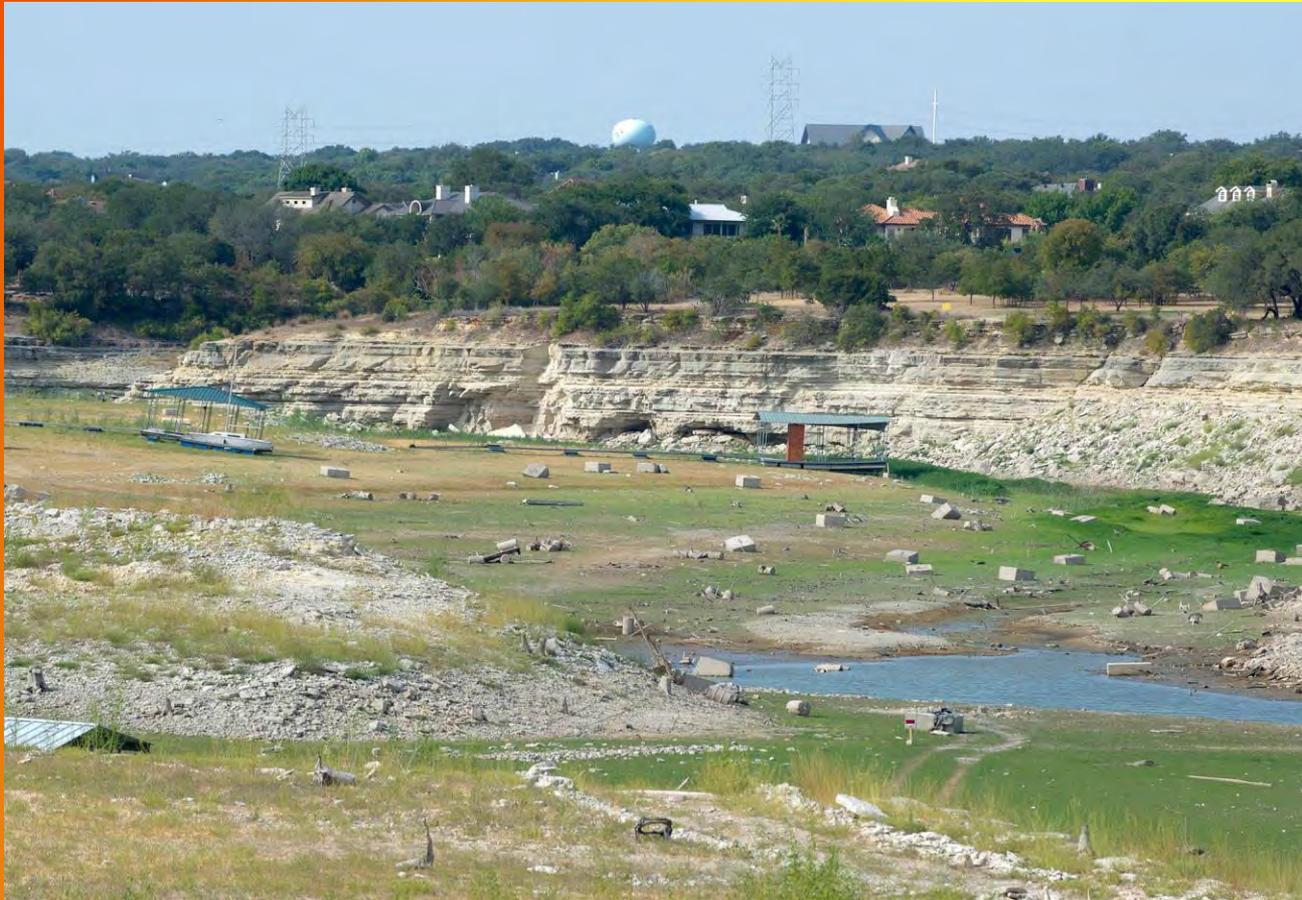


Too many straws in the water...



Lake Travis Levels 2015

- January: -57.29 ft
- After May & June: -9.79 ft
- October Average: -15.39 ft



Extremes: Hurricane Patricia

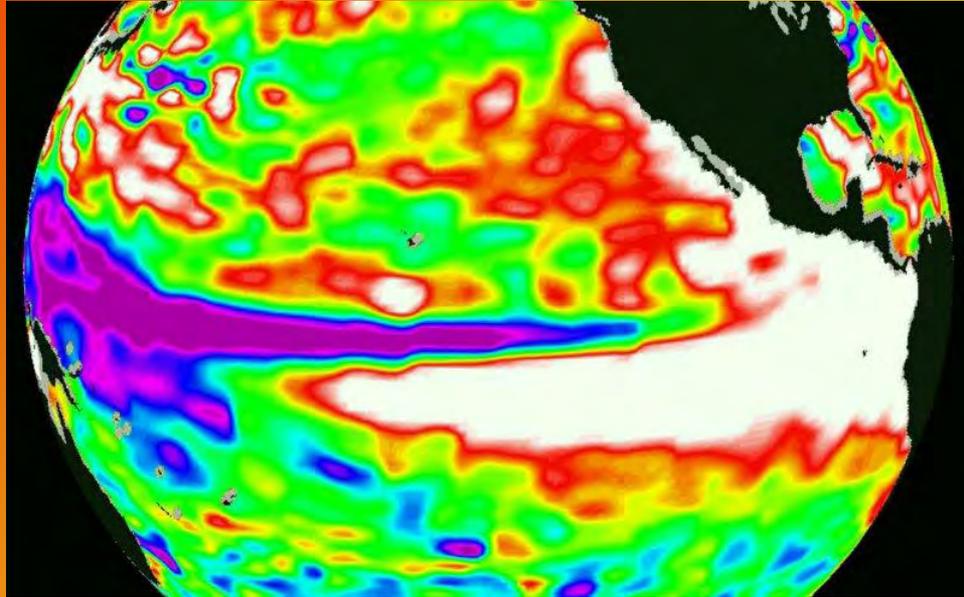
The largest hurricane ever recorded
200 mph winds



Major Destruction in Mexico



Extremes: "Godzilla" El Niño Fall/Winter 2015-2016

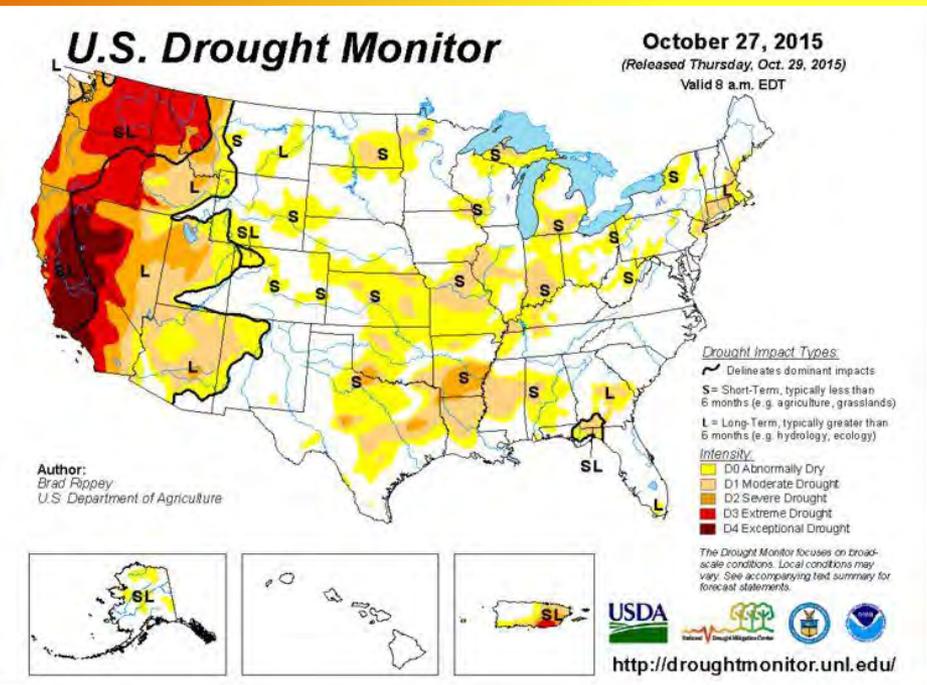
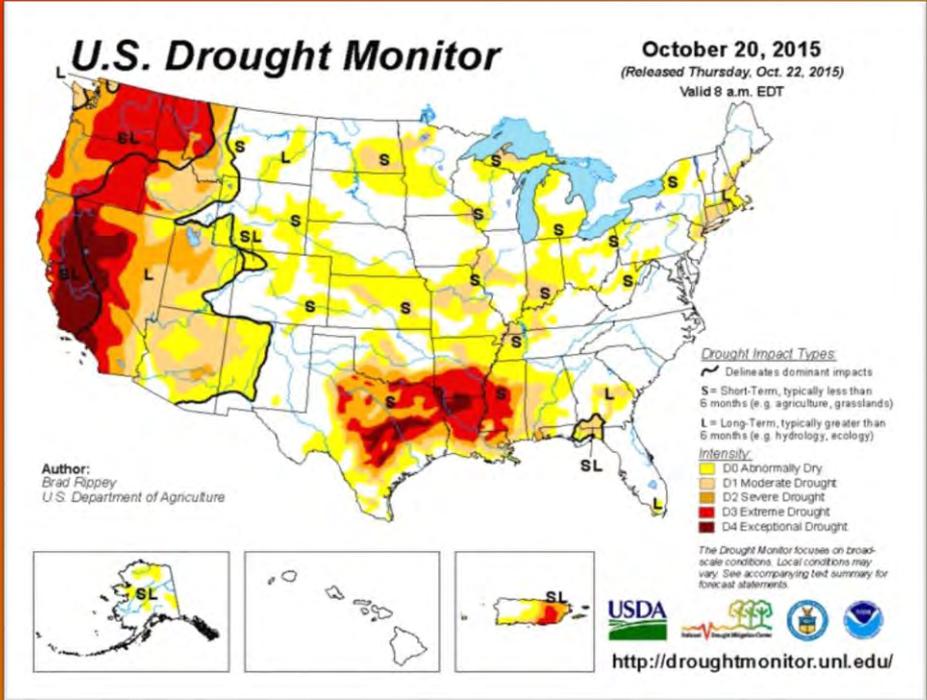


- Surpassing the record setting 1997 El Niño season
 - Caused by a warming in the Pacific

(think about all the heat it takes to raise the ocean's temperatures)

- Creates very wet and very hot conditions
- BUT what will happen when El Niño goes away this time???

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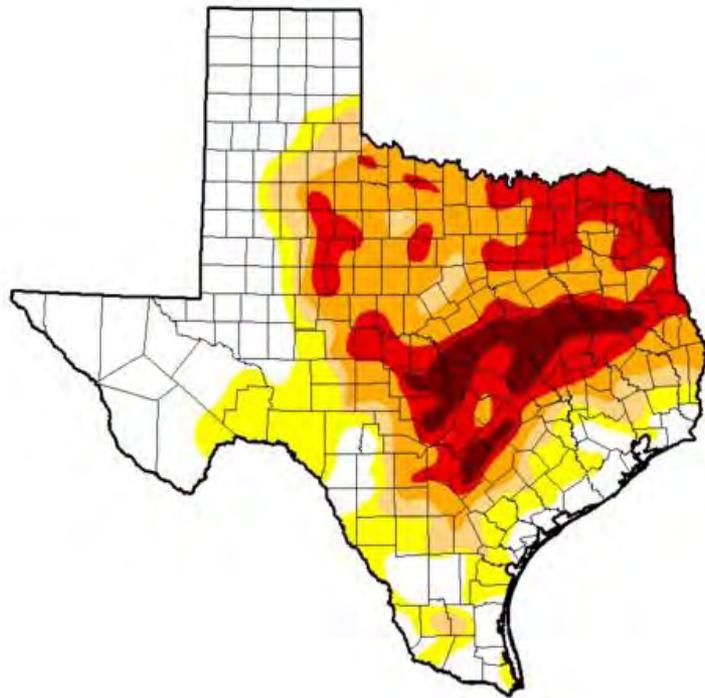


The difference a week makes...but we can't use it all up this time!

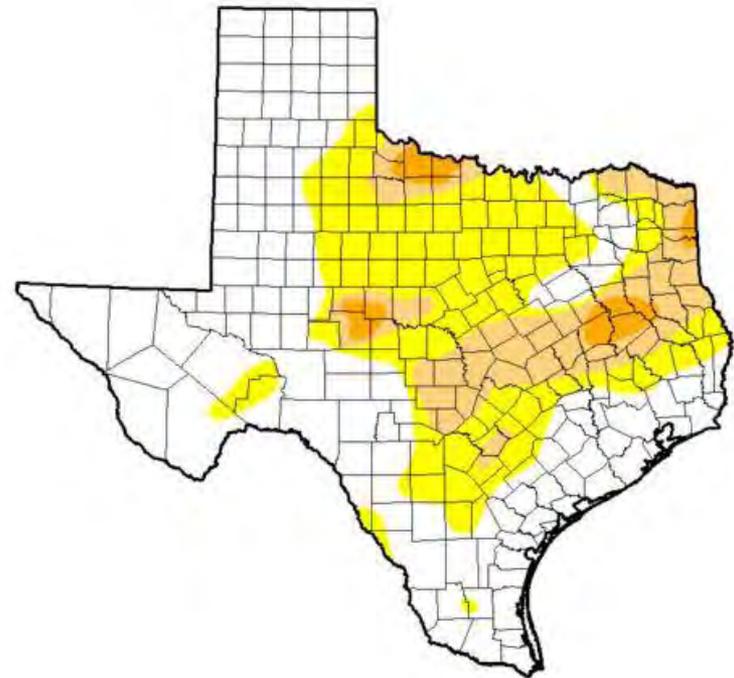
OCTOBER 20

OCTOBER 27

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas



U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas



Intensity:

 D0 (Abnormally Dry)

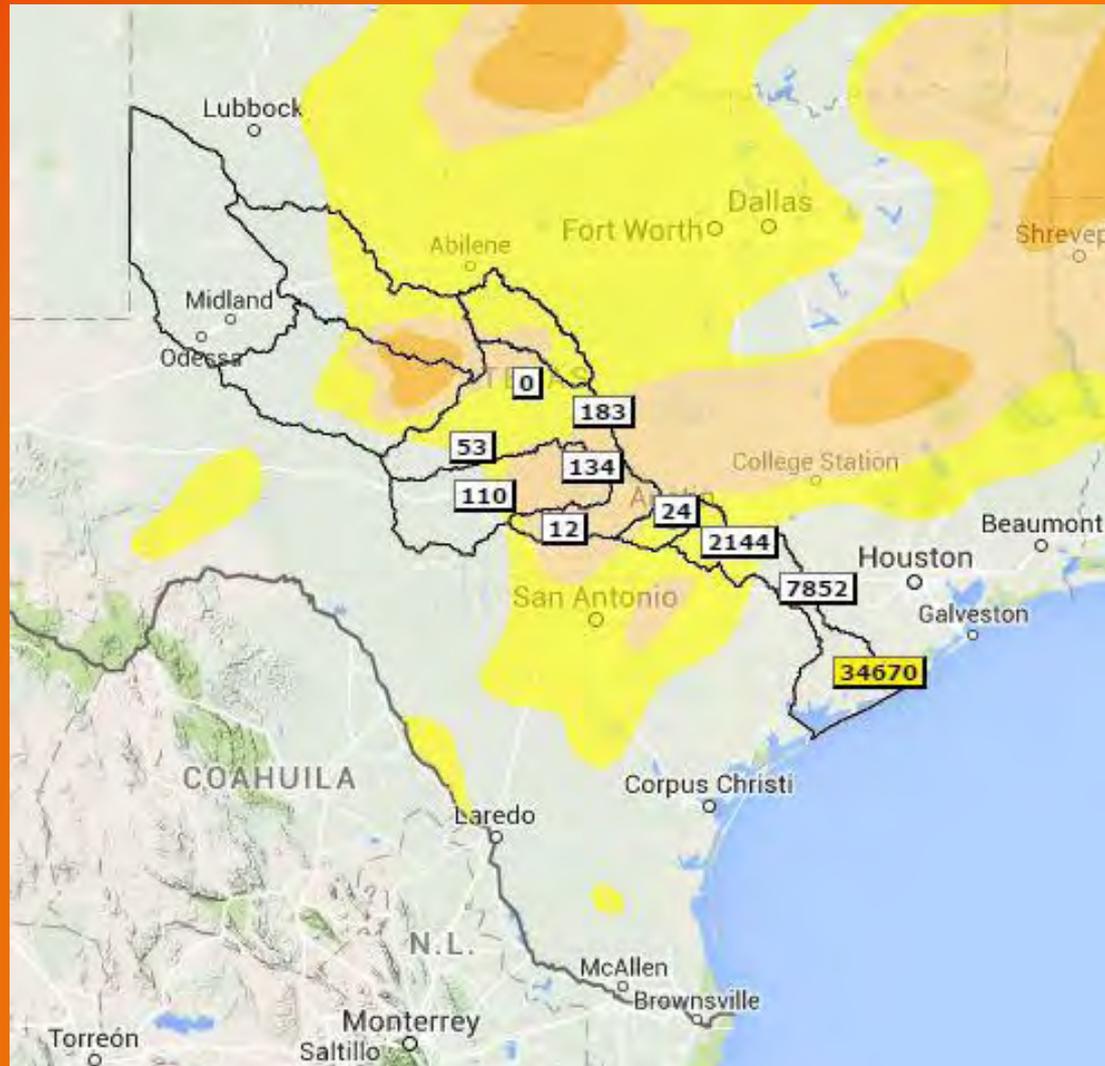
 D2 (Severe Drought)

 D4 (Exceptional Drought)

 D1 (Moderate Drought)

 D3 (Extreme Drought)

Most of the watershed areas still in drought stages 1 & 2, some even in 3



CLIMATE CHANGE CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM

**HOTTER TEMPERATURES
EQUAL
EXTREME EVAPORATION**

**OUR TEMPERATURES HAVE GONE UP 2°F
SINCE THE 1970s**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES CONTINUE...
FIRES – LOSS OF HABITAT
AGRICULTURAL ISSUES – WELLS ARE GOING
DRY...**

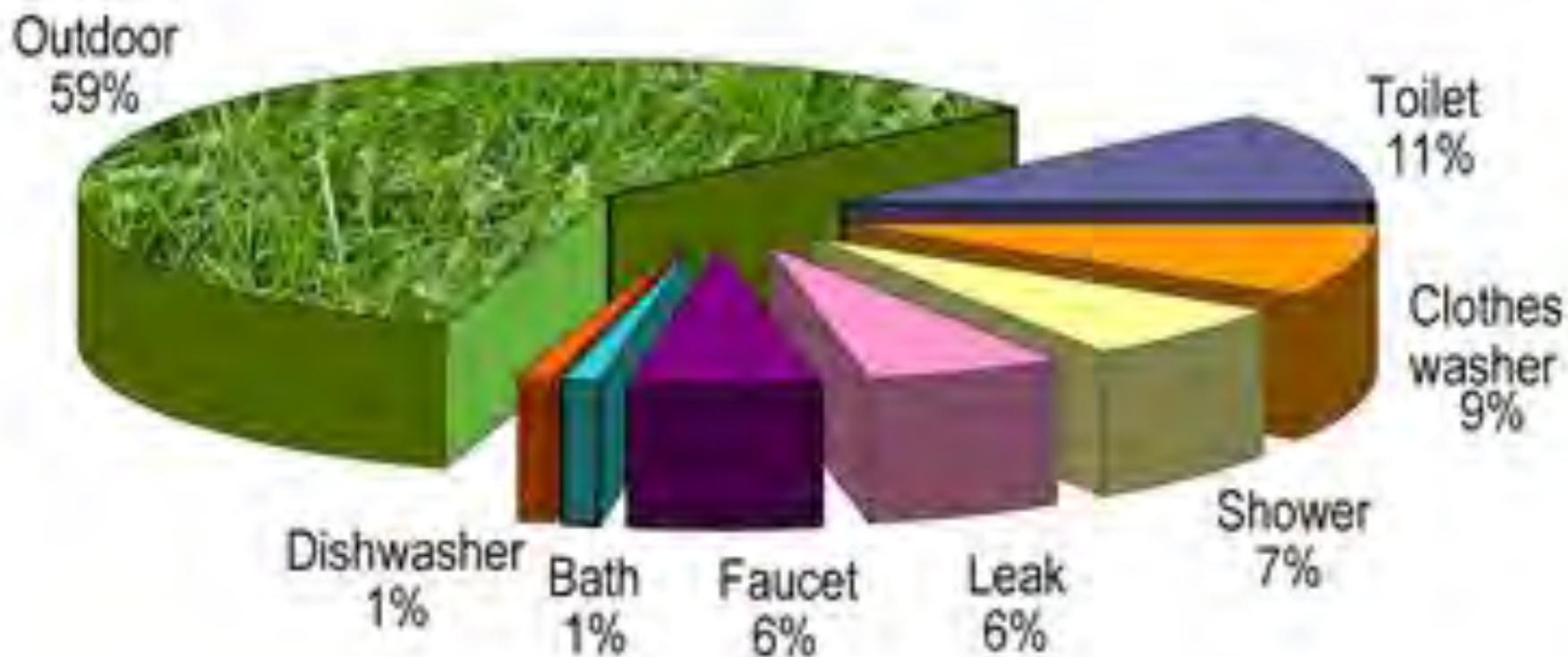
Extremes:
**TRADITIONAL TEXAS WEATHER
FORECAST**
**“WE’RE IN A DROUGHT...AND THEN IT
FLOODS”**



*“What-ya gonna do
when the well runs
dry?”*

Typical Water Usage

Residential Average Water Use



Source: American Water Works Association Research Foundation, End Uses of Water

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!



- Catch water in the shower and the water used to wash fruits and veggies
- Recycle water when rinsing kitchen containers

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

- ✓ Collect rainwater
- ✓ Fix leaks (6%)
- ✓ Compost
- ✓ Mulch
- ✓ Plant more trees



YOU CAN CREATE DROUGHT RESISTANT LANDSCAPES

Xeriscape, don't "Zero"scape



WITH GREAT DESIGN, XERIC LANDSCAPES CAN BE BEAUTIFUL TOO...



USE WELL ADAPTED PLANTS TO CREATE DROUGHT RESISTANT LANDSCAPES...



"THE NATIVES ARE FRIENDLY HERE"



LAWNS

- ✓ Replace with drought tolerant alternatives
- ✓ Aerate annually
- ✓ Topdress with [homemade] compost
- ✓ Mow grass high
- ✓ Water only as needed
- ✓ Water deeply, less frequently



Veggies are also an alternative



MINIMIZE YOUR LAWNS...



USE LAWN ALTERNATIVES...



ALTERNATIVE LAWNS...?



USE NATIVE GRASSES



Thunder Turf

Blue Grama, Curly Mesquite and Buffalo Grass

COMPOST MAKES A DIFFERENCE

!!!



1/2 INCH OF
COMPOST
APPLIED

BENEFITS OF COMPOST

Improves soil structure

- It becomes more water permeable.
- Improves drainage in clay soils.
- Nourishes soil life



- Fertilizes naturally and feeds the soil
- Acts like a sponge –
1 lb compost X 100 lbs soil = 33 lbs H₂O

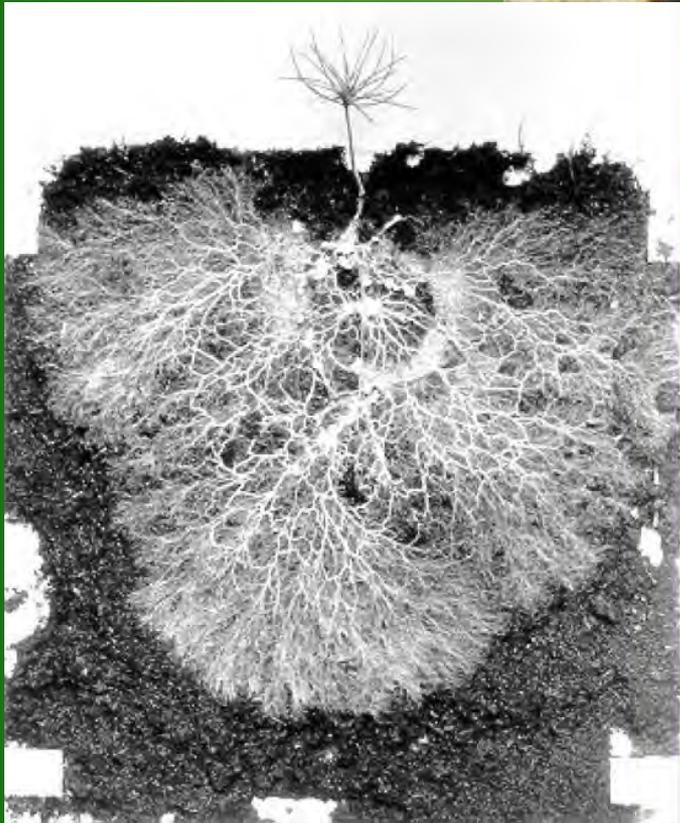
HUMATES

- Highly concentrated form of compost rich in humified organic matter
- Fulvic acid + Humic acid + raw humus (prehistoric plant matter)
- Liquid or granular forms can be used
- Increases the water and nutrient retention of your soil
- Hydretain: 33% reduction in water use at UT Golf Course
- A way to cut down water usage without sacrificing your garden or lawn



MYCORRHIZA

(Humates promote the growth of helpful fungi)



WATER PROPERLY

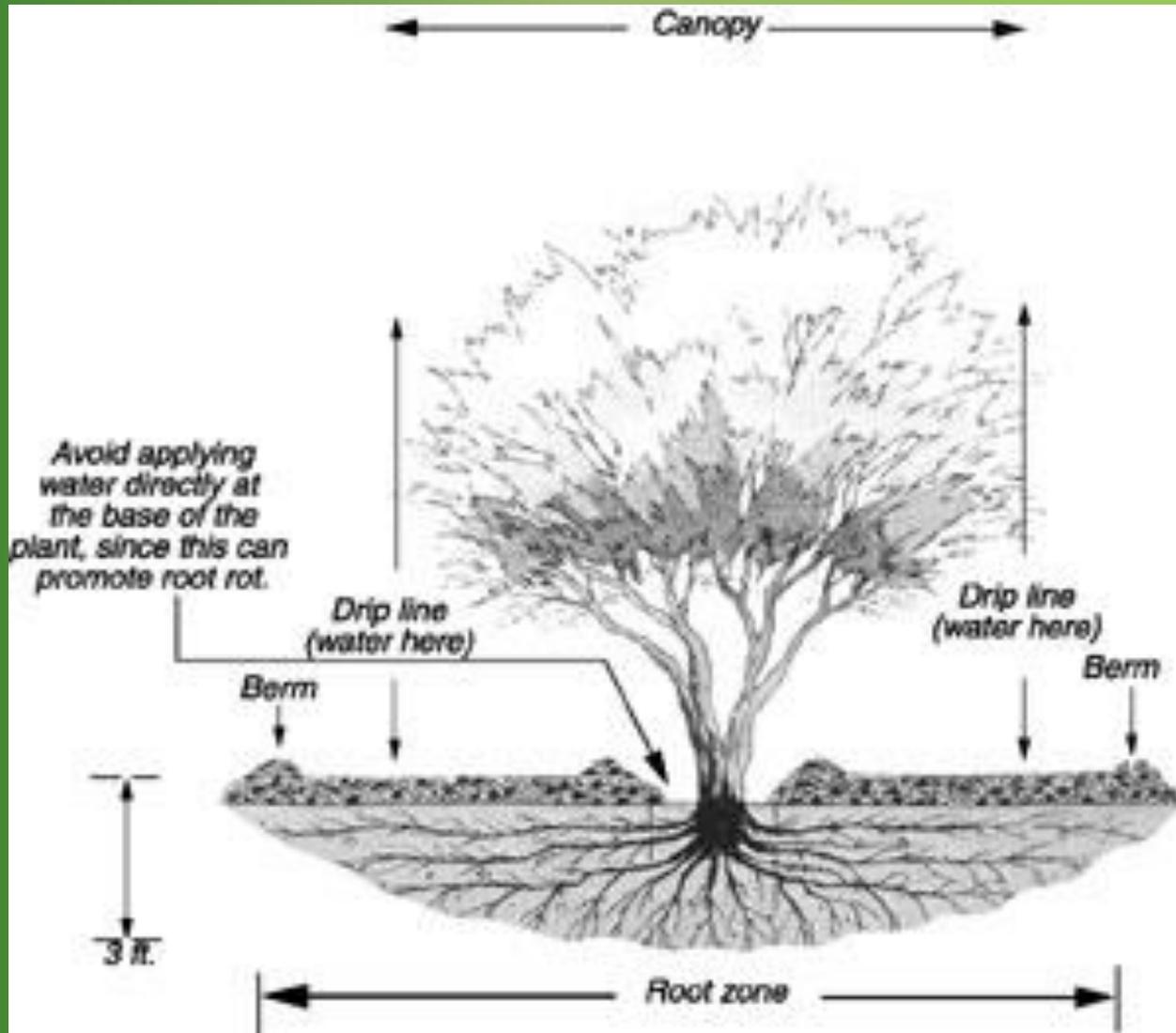
Plants don't waste water – people do!

- Set sprinklers to water only the lawn and garden
- Don't water when it's windy or in the heat of the day
- Water infrequently and deeply



Courtesy of Bob Beyer

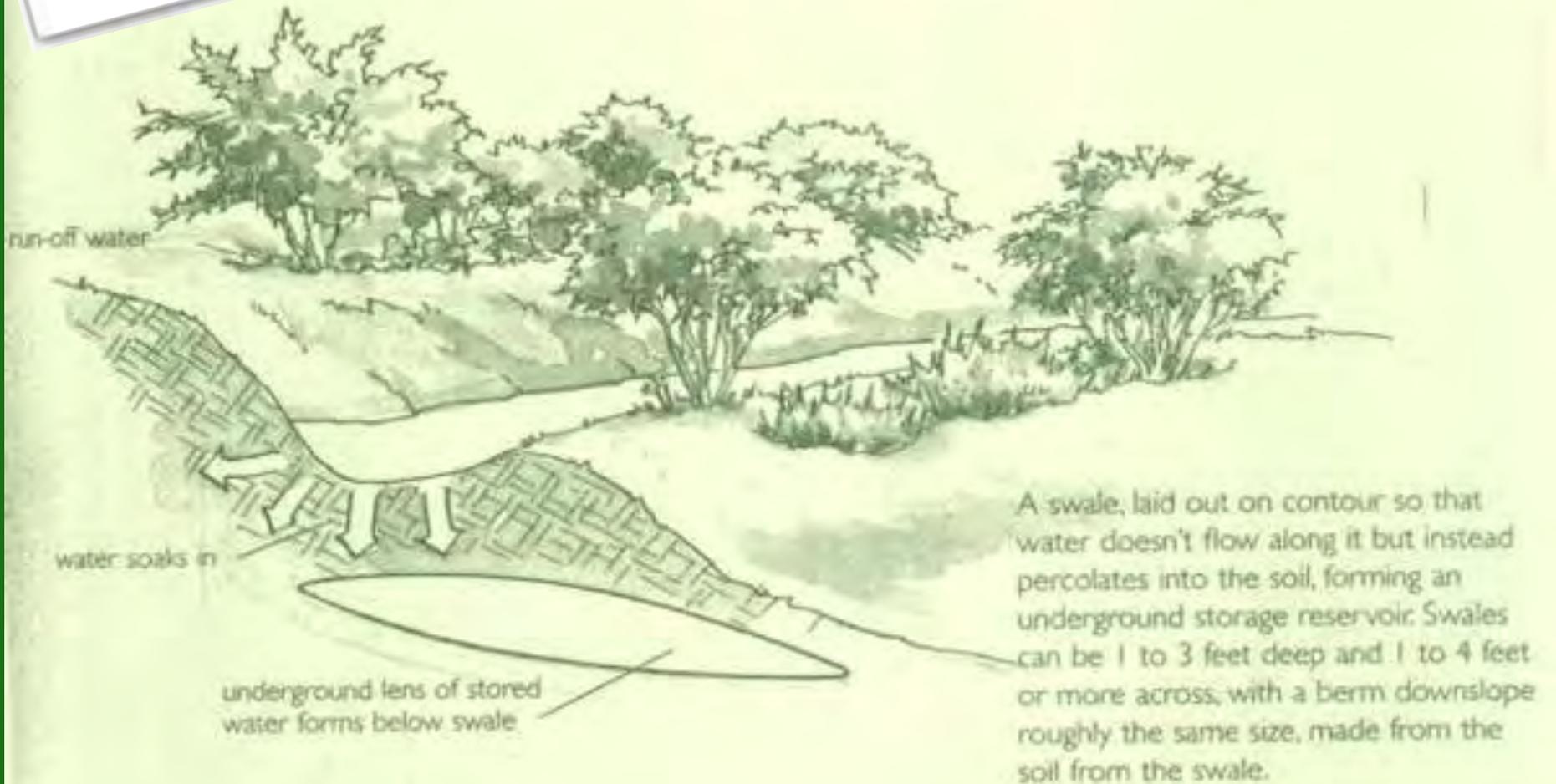
WATER YOUR TREES PROPERLY...



Save The
Swales



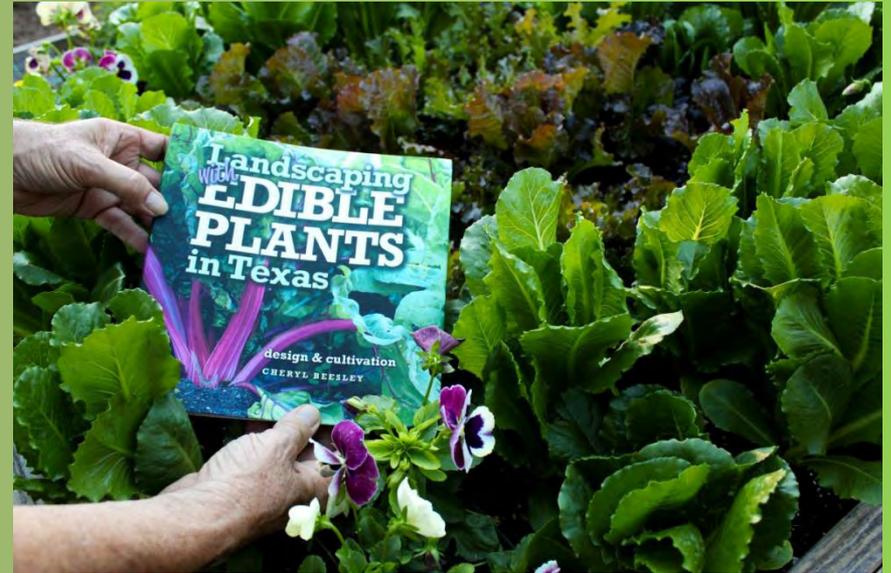
BERM & SWALE



1 inch rain x 1,000 sq ft roof =
600 gallons of rain water!



At The Natural Gardener...









Submatic Drip Irrigation



*The
End...?*



John Lee Dromgoole "el presidente"



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"Gardening Naturally"

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