

BUCHANAN'S

NATIVE PLANTS

After a Flood

After a flood once water has receded, there are a lot of things to take into consideration. First and foremost is safety. Before working in the yard, make sure you have proper tools and safety gear before tending to your lawn or garden. Second is assessing damages your lawn, garden, or home has taken (Ex. Poor drainage, Fallen/crooked tree's, Sanitation). We will discuss how to treat or fix common issues caused by flooding:

1. Safety: Gardening is a very 'Hands On' activity; it is recommended that gardeners wear proper gloves to protect your hands from cuts and possible infection. Because we can't be sure what is in the flood water it is also highly recommended to get a tetanus shot if you are overdue.
2. Sanitation: If you suspect or are concerned that you may have had sewage water contaminate your soil, Monterey Consan 20 can be used to kill bacteria, fungus, or other bad pathogens in the soil. It can also be used indoors to control mold issues. Any fruits, vegetables, or other edibles that were flooded should be discarded in case of contamination. Be sure to use hand sanitizer and/or shower after working in flooded areas.
3. Saving existing grass/plants: If the soil is still very saturated wait until it dries and becomes less muddy before walking around the lawn or garden beds. You do not want to compact the soil. Once less saturated you may be inclined to fertilize, but DO NOT! If a fungus has occurred due to over watering fertilizer will rapidly increase the spread of the fungus. Instead spreading compost, dry molasses, dry humates, or kelp meal can help rejuvenate the soil and will bring your plants back to good health. Avoid using liquids if possible as soil is already saturated.
4. Insect Control: The heavy flood brings out lots of ants, specifically fire ants. If you are experiencing mounds in your lawn you can use a mixture of Orange oil and Molasses or Captain Jacks Dead Bug to drench and kill the fire ants. Standing water can lead to a bad infestation of mosquitos and their larva. Throwing Mosquito Bits or Mosquito dunks in standing water will kill the larva and keep the mosquitos from breeding. Cedarcide or Mosquito beater in the liquid or granule can help repel adult mosquitos.
5. Fallen/Leaning Tree's: If high winds have cause your small to medium sized tree to lean or fall over, but majority of the roots are still intact, the use metal tree stakes and tree chain to prop it back up. Usually 2-3 stakes will be used per tree. Kelp meal can be used to help strengthen the root structure of the tree.