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Stop worrying about your lawn. It's the trees that need your attention

By **Debora Almeida** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT AUGUST 10, 2016

With Massachusetts hit by drought, it's not just lawns that are suffering. The region's trees — and the people who look after them — are also under duress.

After a winter with little snow, this summer's dry heat has been taking a particular toll on the urban canopy, according to local tree wardens.

"If trees have already been under stress, this is the year that puts them over the edge," Waltham tree warden Kevin Thompson said Tuesday.

The US Drought Monitor, a partnership of federal and university authorities, last week categorized much of Massachusetts as having severe drought conditions. More than 140 communities have issued restrictions on non-essential outdoor water use.

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KEVIN THOMPSON

Among the city-owned trees that have died in Waltham is this 80-year-old sugar maple.

In Waltham, ^{Comments}Thompson is seeing record numbers of tree fatalities on city property, particularly among mature specimens 75 to 115 years years old. In his 20 years of monitoring trees in the state, he has never seen anything like it.



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