



Gardenmasters News

VOL 57 – January, February, March 2018

(941) 488-4444 • 341 Seaboard Ave. Venice, FL 34285
gardenmasters@comcast.net • www.gardenmastersFL.com

President's Message

Here is a little education on the cause and results of temperature sensitive plantings. With the first advent of cold weather this season, temperatures dropped to the low to mid 40's, depending on your geographic location. Cold snaps will be most prevalent until the full moon of March has passed.

The most colorful plantings in your garden are usually the most sensitive. Even a few hours of this extreme cold weather will cause leaf spots or dropping and general desiccation of the leaf tissue. Non-cold tolerant palms are also a very popular landscape item that seems to be popping up a lot these days. Cold sensitivity can easily be detected on these varieties because the leaves start turning a pale yellow within a few days of the cold. Many of the phone calls we receive right after a cold event are directly related to the damage caused by this. Because the coldest time is prior to sunrise many homeowners are actually unaware of this extreme weather and exactly what damage may occur. Hibiscus, crotons, jatrophas, and any annual plantings will be affected the hardest. Areca palms, Christmas palms are just a few of the popular varieties that are adversely affected also.

After a severe cold spell your turf grass is also affected. Zoysia will turn a yellow brown and any grassy weeds in your turf will turn a distinct brown. For more information or a compiled list of sensitive plantings, please consult the county extension agent. Once again, thank you for choosing and using Gardenmasters of SW FL., Inc. as your pest/fertilizer provider.

WINTER ANNUALS:

Geraniums, Begonias, Impatiens,
Alyssums, Pansies, Salvias, Dianthus,
Periwinkles, Marigolds and many more.

Fungus Among Us

By: Stephen Meyer

With the colder temperatures here, a lot of people forget to lower their watering schedule, resulting in a lot of fungus. This is completely avoidable by following the watering recommendations of your local extension office or the University of Florida.

- St. Augustine Lawns – 1x per week, 20 min. per zone
- Zoysia Lawns – 2x per week, 15 min. per zone
- Bahai Lawns – Only as needed to avoid browning. Maybe 1x per month.
- Florida Friendly Landscapes – Water 1x per week, 15 min. per zone.

Fungus is the widest spreading, most damaging organism to both turf and plants. With proper watering habits, we can avoid having fungus among us.

Happy New Year to all!

Rats & Mice

By: Rodney Smith

Cooler weather often means an increase in rodent activity in and around homes. A dime sized hole is all that is needed for most to find entry into your home. It is helpful to watch for small holes along roof lines, perimeter walls, cut back limbs, shrubs around homes and check where A/C line enters house, as these are some of rodent's favorite entry points.

The adult rodent's life span in the wild is one year on average. But the number of offspring produced in that time is impressive. They are capable of mating at two months old, have six litters of eight pups per year on average. Large dominate males will mate with all available females.

The first step in rodent control around a house is to seal up all entry points. The roof, perimeter walls, doors and windows should be inspected. Snap traps may be placed in attic to catch any that are already inside. Bait stations are also a valuable tool. While they will not eliminate an existing population of rodents, they will help to limit the number.

If we can be any help in this regard, please contact the Gardenmasters office. Thank you.

Bits and Bytes:

- Do we have your current e-mail address? We might need to alert you to issues, and if we cannot reach you by phone, we will e-mail you. This is especially important if you are away and we need to reach you promptly.
- Our customer portal is now open for you to pay your invoice online. We accept Visa, MC, American Express and Discover.
- Our newsletters are now loaded onto our website.