



# Gardenmasters News

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## President's Message

Late spring and early summer in Florida brings a wide variety of agronomic events. In April, the summer weeds emerge and are treated with a selective herbicide. As the ambient and soil temperatures rise, so do the turf issues. Irrigation, which was set for once a week, will need to be adjusted to two times weekly at a longer duration due to the transpiration of water into vapor. This is the critical time of the year to not allow your turf to become dried out. Mowing height and frequency are important to maintain a healthy turf. If you notice that "hot" spots, which are areas of your turf that are dried out, please either hand water or have the irrigation adjusted accordingly. In Floratam turf, water stress can be identified by the folding of the leaf sheath in half. You can also notice a slight browning of the area, or just stick your finger in the soil and if it is powder, just add water.

The month of May brings our dreaded nemesis, the chinch bug. It is now easily controlled using nicotine-based insecticide that eradicates these critters quite effectively. You might notice a sign left on your door to "please water in" this chemical. Water applied within 48 hours after application is recommended for maximum effectiveness. This chemical is a systemic and will not work where there is drought stress because it cannot be taken up into the plant. Proper irrigation or rain is paramount to maintain a healthy turf.

June begins the fertilizer restrictive period and our services will be weed and insect control on turf and insect control on plants.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing and using Gardenmasters for all your pest control needs.

### **SPRING ANNUALS:**

Begonia, Petunia, Impatiens, Dianthus, Dusty Miller, Coleus, Geranium, Lobelia, Marigold, Pansy, Snap Dragon, Allyson, Viola

### **HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR NEW REFERRAL PROGRAM?**

Refer your family, friends and neighbors to Gardenmasters and receive a \$25.00 Gift Card for each referral!

## Turf Management

**By: Stephen Meyer**

Everyone wants green grass and if managed properly, you can have the greenest, thickest and healthiest lawn in the neighborhood. In turf management, there are tasks that must be done. They are irrigation, mowing, fertilization and pest control.

Absolutely a must is proper irrigation, just because your system turns on and sprays water does not mean it is irrigating properly. Adjustments are needed monthly for proper coverage. Heads should be kept clear and the most important is adjusting the clock for the proper amount of watering throughout the year. Almost everyone waters too much and degrades their own lawn. An irrigation management company is essential if you are not a full time resident because your neighbor may not be an expert.

The lawn must be cut at the proper height and changing the pattern that the property is mowed will greatly improve the appearance of your lawn.

A good quality fertilizer will feed and green the lawn for several months. This will help get it thick and help eliminate weeds. The pest control will help rid the lawn of insects that are damaging such as chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms.

### **Palmetto Bugs**

**By: Rodney Smith**

The American and Australian roach, also known as the palmetto or water bug, are the largest and most common roach found in Florida homes.

The female drops her egg capsule within a day of being formed. The capsules are formed at a rate of about one per week until roughly 15-90 have been produced. Each capsule contains 14-16 eggs. At room temperature they will hatch out in 50-55 days.

In Florida, this roach is usually found in hollow trees, shrubs, under-growth and palm trees.

"Palmetto Bugs" feed on a variety of foods, but decaying organic matter seems to be preferred. They also feed on book bindings, clothing, glossy paper, if they contain starch. The adults can survive 2-3 months without food but only one month without water. Under ideal conditions an Adult female can live up to 14-15 months, but males live for a somewhat shorter period. However, in natural populations, many factors reduce the average life span of both.

Adults have well developed wings and can fly short distances, they are also able to flatten themselves out and slip under sliding glass doors, loose screens and doors.

#### Bits and Bytes:

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- 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.