



Gardenmasters News

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President's Message

The last quarter of the year is an important time for us. October brings the end of the rainy season and the end of the annual fertilizing restriction period. Throughout the summer we have been applying micro-nutrients and insecticide to mitigate nuisance chinch bugs, ants, grubs and hunting billbugs. Your lawn will rebound with our proprietary blends of organic fertilizers that will build microbes and bacteria in the soil to achieve a long lasting, sustainable, and healthy root system.

November will be the time to apply a granular plant, tree, and shrub fertilizer, that will give your plantings the necessary nutrients to maintain great health. Our proprietary blends have an organic odor that will dissipate within a few days of application.

December and January are combined service months with the addition of fertilizer, as needed, to promote healthy turf. This is the perfect time for fall annual plantings. There are numerous varieties that one can choose to enhance select areas of your garden. Spend a few dollars more to get a small pack of Osmocote or a similar product to incorporate into the soil when planting and the benefits will be astounding. While this fertilizer is of a great benefit, take care when using this annual fertilizer. Sweep off walkways and pavers as it stains severely if not properly removed from those areas.

Spiders

By: Rodney Smith

It has been said that there are more spiders on Earth than people and that you are never more than six feet from a spider at any given time. Now that I have your attention, let's begin. Spiders eat insects, so they are very beneficial to the homeowner. The webbing used to catch their prey and the possibility of bites usually outweighs these benefits.

The southern brown and black widow are very common in this area and also have a very serious bite. They are easily recognized by the red or orange hour-glass on their abdomen. The body is about ¼ to ½ inch in length, with an overall size of ¾ to 1 inch.

The huntsman and wolf spiders are also very

common in this area. Although not dangerous, they are very scary. With a body size of 3 to 5 inches and being fast moving, they can be very intimidating. They are hunting spiders so they do not make webs.

Long-term control of spiders is very difficult to achieve. Inside the home may involve vacuuming up the webs, egg sacs and spiders. An application to baseboards, corners and attic will also help. Outside treatments to the base of the home and eaves, sweeping down webs and changing or reducing outside lights that attract flying insects that the spiders feed on will also help in control.

Three Pillars to Plant and Turf Health

By: Colt Partin

Your landscape is a living, breathing entity just like you. The first pillar is water. Correct watering practices are paramount to your landscape's health. Too much water can be as detrimental as not enough, creating shallow and weak roots due to rot. You should have your irrigation system and rain gauge checked a minimum of two times a year. Most turf requires 1 to 2 inches of water per week. Plants vary in their needs but signs that they need water are drooping or brittle leaves. Signs of too much water are yellowing of leaves or defoliation.

The second pillar is fertilization. A balanced fertilizer for your turf and for your plants, trees and palms should be used. Gardenmasters uses fertilizers that are custom blended for our area and encapsulated for slow release to maximize steady nutrient flow to your turf, plants and trees.

The third pillar is mechanical. This pertains to proper mowing heights and the use of sharp blades when mowing turf. Plants need to be pruned properly using clean, sharp trimmers and saws so as not to spread disease.

When any of the above pillars collapse, we find the need to use pesticides. This is medicine for your landscape. Like us, our landscape weakens from the outside stresses and succumbs to insects, fungus, disease and weeds. The sooner a symptom is diagnosed and treated, it lessens the damage and allows for quicker recovery. If your landscape shows signs of distress between the scheduled monthly visits, please give us a call or send an email, so we can diagnose and treat as soon as possible to keep your landscape beautiful.



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.