



# Gardenmasters News

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## President's Message

Springtime in Florida is some of the best weather of the year. As soil and ambient temperatures rise, so does the incidence of nuisance weeds and invading insects. Turf weeds come in two seasons, winter and summer. While they are completely different species, they look basically the same. April is a month of weed treatment unless those weeds are under oak trees. Oak trees pick up nutrients this month and if any weed control product is there, it too will be absorbed and could damage the tree. We take care and get complaints about weeds still prevalent under oak trees. We humbly ask you to please be patient and let us control them a little later in the season.

Nuisance ants and termites swarm this time of year so we will be vigilant to notify you in the event that we see any. Invasive ants love to make mounds in the foliage beds this time of year and fire ants will be mating and making new mounds. We have an application called Chipco Top Choice this is available at an additional charge, if you are allergic to these bites. Please call the office if you are interested, so that we can address these needs.

The month of May brings all of our lawn accounts a complete wall to wall treatment for chinch bugs and if you have Zoysia grassing, hunting billbugs. This will generally control ants and grubs as well. June starts the fertilization restriction period and weed control is the target we aim to control.

Again, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing and using Gardenmasters. This is our 22<sup>nd</sup> year in business and I am truly grateful to be able to service your homes with passion and pride.

## Nuisance Flying Pest in Homes

**By: Rodney Smith**

The Phorid or Humpback fly are small to minute flies that are usually found around decaying plant or animal matter. They are found breeding wherever moisture exists such as bathrooms and kitchens.

Moth and drain flies are about 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch long with a light grey or tan body and lighter colored wings. Both the body and wings are densely covered with long hairs that give the body a fuzzy look. Eggs are laid in such places as dirty garbage containers, water traps in plumbing fixtures and garbage disposals. Under favorable conditions, the flies can go

through one generation in as little as one weeks' time, although two or three weeks is more typical.

No-see-ums (black gnats, sand flies) are 1/16<sup>th</sup> to 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch long with blood sucking mouth parts. Eggs are laid in salt marshes and decaying plant matter. These insects inflict severe bites that may take several weeks to heal.

Eye gnats are very small flies. Eye gnats get their name because they frequently come to the eyes of the victim, as well as mucous and sebaceous secretions, pus and blood. They are non-biting; however, the mouth parts possess spines capable of producing small skin lesions. Eye gnats are more likely to be found in homes bordering woods or fields, especially where livestock are nearby.

Good sanitation is the basic step in all fly management. Whenever possible, food and materials on which the fly can lay their eggs must be removed, destroyed or isolated from the egg laying adult. Substances such as decaying, organic materials, garbage, animal excrement or polluted ground should be removed, if possible. Removal of these from the vicinity of infected premises will frequently make other measures unnecessary.

## Overwatering Issues

**By: Stephen Meyer**

Once again, we are covering irrigation as it is still the biggest avoidable cause of fungus in the lawns as well as browning and die off due to suffocation. The two main types of turf are St. Augustine and Zoysia which are both susceptible to fungus issues. We can cure fungus but it takes a while for this to heal and it is completely avoidable. Please follow the recommended water practices for your specific turf to have the healthiest lawn possible.

Below 80° – No more than one time a week for 20 to 30 minutes in full sun or 10 to 15 minutes in shady areas.

Above 80° –

- St. Augustine – 2x weekly, 25-30 minutes per zone for spray heads and 45-60 minutes for rotors
- Zoysia – 2x weekly, 20 minutes per zone for spray heads and 30-40 minutes for rotors

Call us today for your

**FREE**

Termite Inspection!



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.