



Gardenmasters News

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President's Message

I get many questions about which turf variety is the best to use with the least problems. St Augustine, Zoysia, and Bahia are the varieties of turf widely used in this area of the state. Each has its benefits and troubles.

St Augustine is the easiest to grow, it responds well in cold or warm conditions and regenerates when damage occurs. Floratam is the most popular variety and the worst is Palmetto with its fungus problems. If an irrigation issue is catastrophic, the grass will die and not regenerate. Mowing height should be 4"+.

Zoysia is a challenge. It shuts down at the slightest hint of cold weather and does not come out of semi-dormancy until May. It is noted for fungus in the winter and billbugs and nematodes in the summer. If a catastrophic irrigation problem occurs the grass will go into a state of semi-dormancy and will regenerate when water is reapplied. The mowing height for this variety is no more than 2.5". Mowing this higher causes problems and general decline.

Bahia is a pasture grass that really needs no irrigation and will decline over a short period of time. Grassy weed control is not available so it is impossible to keep it pristine. This is used on roadways to control erosion and mowing can be infrequent and up to 12". The moral of the story is that there is no perfect grass!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for choosing and using Gardenmasters as your service provider. Have a great summer!

Dead by Morning

By: Rodney Smith

It was a dark and stormy night, Momma and Papa Roach needed to find somewhere safe and dry. Momma Roach had just formed an egg capsule and wanted to drop it somewhere. If it hatched at all, it would still be almost two months from now.

A modest split-level Ranch home came into view and they made a bee-line for it. The front door had a small gap where the weather stripping had come loose so they squeezed through there. What they didn't realize was that Rodney from Gardenmasters had been there earlier in the day and did a very thorough inspection and treatment, inside and out.

Finding that there was no other pests in the home,

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.

they set up light house-keeping under the kitchen sink. Momma Roach dropped her egg capsule behind an old box of sponges and they started to relax and clean themselves.

The act of cleaning themselves sealed their fate. Rubbing their legs along the sides of the body introduced the chemical from the hairs on their legs into the opening where they breathe. Unlike the harsh chemicals of the past; death was slow. The chemical was acting on their nervous system and making them climb walls and lay on their backs.

The homeowner found them the next morning, on their backs on the kitchen floor and gave them a burial at sea – flushed. The egg capsule never hatched and the homeowners lived happily ever after.

Irrigation Issues

By: Colt Partin

After a hot and dry spring, we are now in the rainy season. During the next three months regional regulations prohibit lawn fertilization to protect our waterways during the rainy season. No nitrogen or phosphorous will be applied. In August, we will do a liquid application containing iron, potassium and micro-nutrients. We will be diligently inspecting your turf and landscape plantings through the summer months and treating as needed.

Please be especially mindful of your irrigation schedule this time of year. A properly operating rain sensor is your best defense against over or under watering. Over watering leads to fungus and under watering causes drought stress which creates conditions favorable to pest infestation.

General guidelines for irrigating St. Augustine turf are 2 times weekly for 25-30 minutes per zone for spray heads and 45-60 minutes for rotating heads. Zoysia turf should be watered 2x weekly for 20 minutes per zone spray head and 45 minutes for rotating heads.

If you have questions or notice declining areas in your landscape, please call or email and we will be happy to schedule an inspection.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR TREE INJECTION PROGRAM?

If you have specimen trees such as a Bismarck, Canary Island Date, Medjool, or Sylvester, we offer tree injections to help prevent diseases such as TPPD and Ganoderma. For more information, please contact the office.