



Gardenmasters News

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President's Message

October, November, and December are the months of the year that receive granular fertilizations. This year was a particularly wet summer and the turf and plants are hungry for nitrogen and potassium. October will be turf application, November will be plant, tree, and palm, and December/January which is a combined time due to holidays and weather events is another turf fertilizer. December is a month of transition. Some years December is very warm and fertilizer uptake is maximized, and others a cold December volatilizes fertilizer so we wait until it warms back up in January to apply.

Fall is the best season to plant annuals. The best place to purchase them is from a big box store with many fine choices. Annual fertilization is easy and when you buy those flowers, pick up some Osomocote fertilizer and apply a tablespoon around each of the annuals you plant. You will have many months of enjoyment with that recipe and no additional care, except for water and sunshine is necessary.

December can be a fickle weather month so be prepared for a freeze. Tender plantings, generally those that flower, can be adversely affected by even 40 degrees. If you see that type of weather coming, use old sheets or blankets to cover the tender plantings. Once the cold snap passes the sheets can be removed and your plants will be safe.

Super Termites

By: Rick Gardner

There was an article recently about what they are calling "super termites" swarming South Florida. University of Florida entomologist, Dr. Nan Yao Su, says, "In the past 5 years, there has been a 30 percent increase in Formosan and Asian termites coming in by ship invading new areas." The best thing you can do is limit the water near your home and get a preventative treatment done. These bugs are very persistent - chewing

through wood, easily moving through plumbing systems and entering through 1/64th of an inch cracks in concrete.

Many people feel safe having a block home and think termites can't get in. Getting through concrete is not even a challenge for termites. Concrete is extremely strong but not flexible, and if you look closely, you can see tiny cracks. Termites can even pick apart tiny loose pieces of the concrete around these cracks to finish their pathway to find wood. Even in a block home, there is plenty of wood for termites to eat. You have baseboards, frames, headers, interior walls, cabinets, furniture, attics, and maybe even wood floors.

These Asian and Formosan termite colonies or "super termites" contain several million termites versus several hundred thousand for native termites. They can collectively eat up to a pound of wood a day and once established somewhere they can be extremely difficult to get rid of. Prevention is the key to stopping them. Call Gardenmasters today to get a free inspection and find out what kind of termite prevention we can do for you to protect your home.

Palm Injections

By: Colt Partin

This year we have genuine concerns pertaining to borers and lethal bronzing effecting palm trees in our area. Palms such as *Canariensis* (pineapple) and *Bismarckia* are susceptible to borers, and many varieties and species of *Sylvesters* are susceptible to lethal bronzing.

We strongly encourage you to consider our augmented palm tree injection program if you have any of the above listed palms on your property. These injections will help to protect your investment from these pests/diseases. Canary and Bismarck palms will receive *Treeage* Injections which cost \$35 per quarter per palm. Sylvester palms will receive *Oxytetracycline Hydrochloride* Injections which cost \$25 per quarter per palm.

If you are interested in enrolling in this program, please contact our office at (941) 488 – 4444 to have an estimate put together.

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.