



# Gardenmasters News

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## President's Message

While the weather in December was moderate, January usually brings a cold snap or two. It is important to cover any cold-sensitive plants to prevent damage. Old blankets or sheets do the trick. They have to be placed over the plant and secured to the ground. Once the snap passes, remove the sheet and enjoy the plants you saved. We receive many calls after a cold event about plants that look dead or damaged and this little trick will aesthetically keep your garden intact.

Sylvester palm trees are susceptible to Lethal Bronzing and Decline. We have an injection program that is available to inoculate these trees to help prevent their death. While these continuous injections are not guaranteed, they are a necessary preventative measure to help combat these pathogens.

Bismarck palms and canariensis palms are susceptible to borers and we have injections that will inhibit the insect from killing these specimen palms. Again, this treatment is not guaranteed but a prevention program that is better than no treatment at all.

At this time, there is not a better solution to this problem that I can share with you. The world is connected and these pathogens come from far away and manifest themselves in Florida where they flourish.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for choosing Gardenmasters as your lawn fertilization and pest control, termite, and interior pest control provider.

## Moths in your pantry

**By: Rodney Smith**

If you find moths in your pantry, they may be one of three species of stored product pests: the Angoumois Grain moth, the Indian Meal moth or the Mediterranean Flour moth. Stored product pests are already in the product when you buy it at the store, usually in the egg or larvae stage.

The Angoumois Grain moth is small with a wing span of about 2/3 inch. It has a yellowish, white body with pale front wings. Their hind wings are pointed and fringed. The larvae feed entirely within the kernels of whole grain and thus may remain undetected until adults emerge.

The Indian Meal moth has a wing span of about 3/4 inch. Their front wings are tan on the front third and reddish brown with a coppery luster on the back two-thirds. Larvae, when ready to pupate, will leave the food supply and wander about in search of a place to spin their white silken cocoon to pupate.

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.

The Mediterranean Flour moth is the largest of the three with a wing span of about one inch. Their front wings are a pale grey with wavy black lines running across them. Their hind wings are a dirty white. The hind wings are rounded at the tips rather than pointed, as in the Angoumois moth. The larvae spin silken threads as they move about. These threads fasten particles of the food together in a dense mat. The larvae are often found away from the infested product, seeking a crack or crevice in which to pupate.

Regular inspection of the products in your pantry is the best prevention. Keeping grain products in a tightly sealed container or in the refrigerator helps. Products found with pests in them should be destroyed immediately. Any questions or problems, please call our office.

## Winter Months

**By: Colt Partin**

We at Gardenmasters hope you have had a nice holiday season and are starting out the new year with a bang.

I would like to start by talking about grass. In the winter months, our daylight is less and in the last few months we have had a lot of cool weather. With these conditions, our grasses do not need much water, irrigating one time a week will suffice. Often times a homeowner will see an area in their grass yellowing and they will water. This yellowing is usually fungus and watering more only helps it to spread. Instead of watering, call the office and we will send a technician out to diagnose and treat. An easy way to see if your turf needs water is step into the grass, if you leave a footprint, you might need to water. If the grass where you stepped springs right back, the watering should be okay.

As a final note for plants and certain palms – if we have a forecast for frost or freeze, please protect your tropical plants and Adonidia palms by covering them with sheets or frost blankets. This is critical for our customers that have properties East of I-75.

Thank you for letting Gardenmasters serve you and we hope you have a safe, happy and prosperous New Year!

## 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 borers. For more information, please contact the office.