



# Gardenmasters News

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## President's Message

Welcome to Spring 2020. Twenty-three years ago, I founded Gardenmasters and each and every day I still thoroughly enjoy my work. Chemistry and fertilizer have evolved and the words “environmentally friendly” are now a household term. I recently spoke at Miami City Council and helped pass their fertilizer restrictions to start the mitigation of Biscayne Bay, which is heavy in nitrogen. I am a proud proponent of sustainable landscape and both my son and I's company make a difference in water quality throughout Southwest Florida.

So far this year, rain has been sparse and it is apparent exactly where irrigation heads or zones are clogged or not functioning properly. It is time for that seasonal irrigation system tune-up so that no turf is lost due to lack of water.

Mid-April through May are months of plant inspections and correction along with a turf fertilization and turf insect control. The blackout period for nitrogen application starts in June so these are important months to supply food for the summer. We will be applying a blanket insect control to mitigate those pesky chinch bugs and hunting billbugs in zoysia. June is a catch-up month of intense weed control and inspection of all plants, trees, and palms, with corrections and augmentation of essential elements, where necessary.

I want to once again take this opportunity to thank each and every customer who uses Gardenmasters as their lawn fertilization and pest control provider. I hope you are enjoying the lovely spring weather we have here in Southwest Florida.

## Termite Activity

**By: Rick Gardner**

As you know already, Covid-19 is spreading but so are the termites. Swarming is how termites spread. Subterranean termites started swarming in February and Drywood termites will start in April. Both Drywood and Subterranean termites will end swarming in late summer. Once they have stopped, they will continue to feed on wood year-round. Even now everyone is worried about Covid-19, it is supposed to slow down eventually, the termites will not.

It is important to remember to protect your house so once we get through this, there hasn't been termites feeding on your house that you weren't concerned about. We can provide an estimate without entering your home, if that is a concern of yours. A complete termite inspection can be done at a later date.

Drywood droppings look like coffee grounds and sawdust. Subterranean termites do not have droppings but bring mud up with them. You are not always going to see it easily though. Call us and we can get a free inspection and proposal prepared for you.

## Irrigation Adjustments

**By: Joe Beaulieu**

It is that time of year again – time to review and adjust your irrigation system. During the winter months, we advised you all to only be watering once a week to avoid fungus in the turf. However, as the weather continues to warm up into the 80's, we will need to increase the watering schedule.

Additionally, March has been a rather windy month which will increase the evaporation rate. We have been seeing signs of stressed areas throughout many yards. Our watering suggestions are as follows:

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

Areas along driveways, walkways and in full sun will require more water than shaded areas. We encourage you to reach out to your irrigation company to have all spray heads reviewed and adjusted. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office to get in touch with your technician.



### SPRING ANNUALS:

Begonia, Petunia, Impatiens, Dianthus, Dusty Miller, Coleus, Geranium, Lobelia, Marigold, Pansy, Snap Dragon, Allyson, Viola



## 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.