



# Gardenmasters News

**VOL 67 – July, August, & September 2020**

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## President's Message

July, August, and September are the summer months that bear the fruit of our hard work from fall to spring. Our propriety blend of fertilizers has an organic component that actually builds microbes and bacteria in the soil. Those bugs allow the conversion of fertilizer to be highly utilized by the plant which means less volatilization and more fertilizer uptake.

Gardenmasters was the industry leader in the laws governing fertilizer restrictions in the summer months. Back in 2007, when these laws were first enacted, we had a lot of pushback from the industry saying it was not viable and that we had been villainized as traitors. Slowly but surely, one by one, the naysayers have adapted to this restricted period with the fertilizer industry also coming on board making compliant products that are far more environmentally friendly. The wonderful result is clean water. Waterways, bays, and estuaries are the direct benefactor to this law and water quality tests have proven just that. With a large footprint of accounts stemming from Tampa to Marco Island, Gardenmasters was proud to lead the way in this movement to a more sustainable, environmentally friendly, less fertilizer and pesticide reduced landscapes which we proudly service. I can still remember the day in 2007 that we said "we are for clean water". That legacy will stay with us forever and we are very proud of that. When you chose Gardenmasters, you chose a company that truly cares about the environment and future generations. Thank you for that choice.

## Termite Activity

By: Rick Gardner

Drywood and Subterranean termite swarming season will end in the next few months. Drywood termite swarming season ends in late July to early August. Subterranean termite swarming season can go to late summer. It is important to remember that even when swarming season is over, termites are still working and eating your house, 24 hours a day, all year long. Termite swarms are just a small fraction of the colony that are leaving to start their own colony. There is no house termites cannot get into, including block houses on a slab. Call us for a free estimate today!

## From the Ground Up

By: Joe Beaulieu

Summertime has some distinct challenges concerning irrigation. Two weeks ago, we had 8 inches of rain and now it is dry. Whether turf or plant, variations in water cause distress in our landscapes. We cannot reiterate enough the importance of having a properly maintained irrigation system with a rain sensor on the system. We checked a home yesterday and the rain sensor had gone bad. One easy way of checking the sensor is to immerse it in a cup of water. The system should not turn on, if it still does, obviously the sensor is bad and will need to be replaced. This works both ways because sometimes a bad water sensor prevents the system from coming on when water is needed. We always recommend that our customers have a competent irrigation company perform a tune up and wet check at least twice yearly.

Tree injections on Sylvester, Canariensis, and Bismarck palms are always a hot topic. Lethal Bronzing is the new buzz word for the decline of select palms in the landscape. To drill or not to drill is the question. We currently service over 3,000 palms on our program and have had only one fall victim to this pathogen, even though it has been inoculated. We disclaim that this is a preventative program and not a warranty. Nature always prevails and nothing is guaranteed with her. The insect is a Lyndus that injects this pathogen in the tree and the injections are *Oxytetracycline* actually makes the leaf a bitter taste and the vector flies off to a better tasting buffet. On Bismarck palms, the borer is the insect that kills. It lays eggs in the heart and the little ones gleefully eat out the bud, causing death to the tree. We use a *Tree-age* chemistry that is a true insecticide that is systemic uptake and is a preventative treatment to ward off these bugs. We do notice that on affected trees that have just been pruned aggressively. A free natural way to inhibit borers is to selectively prune your trees. A pheromone that is a distress signal given off by the trees will attract borers from miles away to announce the buffet. If you have questions regarding treatments, please do not hesitate to call our office and an estimate can be scheduled. Enjoy your summer, wear a mask and please stay healthy.

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.