



# Gardenmasters News

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(941) 488-4444 • 341 Seaboard Ave. Venice, FL 34285

[gardenmasters@comcast.net](mailto:gardenmasters@comcast.net) • [www.gardenmastersFL.com](http://www.gardenmastersFL.com)

## President's Message

I am writing this in late September, and I see a prevalence of mushrooms popping up in lawns everywhere on our properties. Ever wonder why? Well, every September the rainfall stimulates fungal mycelia, which sends up fruiting bodies that we call mushrooms. Mushrooms are a very good sign and do not need attention or spraying. Mushrooms are a sign of a healthy ecosystem, which means we have done our job well. The mushrooms eat decaying plant material and turn it into fertilizer for your lawn.

With over 40 years in this business I have seen a lot of interesting problems. Some of these are correctable and some are not. Ganoderma or Gaeumannomyces are terminal fungi that grow on the base of the tree, removing them is tricky as the mycelia spread and continue on their destructive path. These conchs affect the vascular system of the plant causing a slow death. There is no eradication or control, and once this fungus has killed the host, replacing the palm or plant with the same species will cause the fungi to regrow and kill the new plant. If you see something on your trees or plants, please call our office so that a manager can inspect and identify this pathogen. October brings a granular turf fertilizer to all accounts, November is a plant fertilizer month and December/January, which we combine, brings yet another turf fertilization.

I want to thank you for choosing Gardenmasters as your service provider. We are proud to be in business 23 years and strive to be the most eco-friendly and cost effective, while providing quality service for all of our accounts.

## Now You Know

By: Rodney Smith

The word earwig is derived from the word ear-wicga which literally means “ear creature”. In the middle ages people thought it would crawl into an ear while they were sleeping and bore into their brain.

Those of you who think that roaches have no heart are correct. The blood is circulated by an open-ended tube located along the upper side and runs the entire length of the body and pumps in toward the head, from where it simply flows back around the body parts to the where it begins again.

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.

Periodical cicadas stir our imagination like no other insect. For years we forget them, then suddenly one spring they emerge from the ground in the millions and swarm into the trees. A periodical cicada spends nearly its entire life in the dark, underground in tunnels. After emerging, the male sings for a mate and after that...never sings again. Any resemblance to real life is merely coincidental.

## Summer Rainfall & Fall Predictions for Irrigation

By: Joe Beaulieu

Overall, it has been a very wet rainy season with continual rainfall throughout the summer months. This offers challenges to your turf that chemical applications cannot cure. Low areas or poorly drained spots that accumulate standing water can cause root dieback and thinning in those areas of turf that are affected. Our October granular fertilization will help to mitigate those areas and will show regrowth as the rain subsides in the fall. Plants are also averse to standing water and continual wet areas. They will exhibit some bacterial spots on leaves, which will self-correct when the rain subsides.

While we are speaking about rain, fall is now the time to do an irrigation tune up and get ready for the drier months. With the amount of rainfall we had this summer, most irrigation systems have been off or monitored with a rain sensor. Lightning is the biggest problem for the irrigation clock, so make sure to check that it is working. Clogged or overgrown heads will also occur due to lack of use. The time to check your system is now before lack of rain causes different issues. We recommend a professional company to “wet check” the system and make sure all zones are working properly, and the proper amount of time is used on each zone. If you choose to do this yourself, it is important to let each zone run its full course and not just a “test” on each. Most of our service calls in the fall are due to improperly timed clocks or heads that are clogged preventing adequate irrigation coverage. Sometimes the heads do not rotate completely, which is why it is imperative to do a thorough and complete wet check. “My lawn is brown or dying” is a typical query from customers when the true culprit is the irrigation system. A quick check of your system will pay dividends with a green lawn and healthy bushes.

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Termite Inspection!

