



# Gardenmasters News

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## **President's Message**

With the first advent of cold weather this season, temperatures dropped to the low to mid 40's, depending on your geographic location. Cold snaps will be most prevalent until the full moon of March has passed.

The most colorful plantings in your garden are usually the most sensitive. Even a few hours of this extreme cold weather will cause leaf spots or dropping and general desiccation of the leaf tissue. Non-cold tolerant palms are also a very popular landscape item that seems to be popping up a lot these days. Cold sensitivity can easily be detected on these varieties because the leaves start turning a pale yellow within a few days of the cold. Many of the phone calls we receive right after a cold event are directly related to the damage caused by this. Because the coldest time is prior to sunrise, many homeowners are actually unaware of this extreme weather and exactly what damage may occur. Hibiscus, crotons, jatrophas, and any annual plantings will be affected the hardest. Areca palms and Christmas palms are just a few of the popular varieties that are adversely affected as well.

After a severe cold spell your lawn is also affected. Zoysia will turn a yellow-brown and any grassy weeds in your turf will turn a distinct brown. For more information or a compiled list of sensitive plantings, please consult the county extension agent. Once again, thank you for choosing and using Gardenmasters of SW FL., Inc. as your lawn and ornamental pest control and fertilization provider.

## **Termites in Florida's Winter**

**By: Richard Gardner**

An important fact about termite species in Florida is that they are active and feed on wood 24 hours a day, year-round. It depends on the species and sub-species of termite to determine what time of year they swarm. There are three main species of termites, but only two to be concerned about, Subterranean and Drywood.

The eastern Subterranean termite swarms between October and February, the dark southeastern Subterranean termite swarms between March and June; the light Subterranean termite swarms from December and April. The Formosan Subterranean swarms at night in late spring. Drywood termites have sub-species as well and they have been reported swarming every month except December.

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.

Dampwood termites are the only other main species of termites in Florida, however they can only feed on moisture damaged wood.

Proactive prevention is considerably cheaper than reactive treatment, specifically dealing with Subterranean termites. Prevention of Drywood termites can vary based on many factors and can be discussed on an individual basis. Call Gardenmasters for a free inspection and quote.

## **Florida Winter Months**

**By: Mitchell Lockard**

Our Gardenmasters team sincerely hopes that you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season. We are proud to be going into the New Year with you as a customer.

There are a couple tips I would like to recommend as we go into the colder months. During our winter months, we have less daylight than we do in the summer, this means that your lawn will not need to be watered as often as usual. Most lawns will suffice with watering once per week. If you happen to see any yellowing areas in your yard, please contact the office prior to adding additional water to your lawn. This yellowing is usually caused by fungus and excessive watering can lead to spreading fungus. Upon receiving your call, we will schedule time for your technician to come out to diagnose and treat your yard.

Please keep in mind that also during these colder months, grass such as Bermuda and Zoysia may go dormant. Not to worry though, this is common of these grasses and your lawn will be back to normal once our warmer weather returns.

On another note regarding plants and palms, it is important to protect your tropical plants and palms from any frost or freeze conditions. This is especially important for all customers located East of I-75. You can successfully protect these plants and palms by securing a sheet or frost blanket to keep them warm.

We look forward to serving you this year and wish you a safe and happy New Year!

## **WINTER ANNUALS:**

Geraniums, Begonias, Impatiens,  
Alyssums, Pansies, Salvias, Dianthus,  
Periwinkles, Marigolds and many more.