



Gardenmasters News

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President's Message

April, May and June are the most beautiful months in Florida due to its floral splendor. Ambient light and heat allow the flowers to bloom and the grass to grow. With summer upon us, this also means that it is the absolute driest time of the calendar year. Hot spots of dry areas in the turf are always abundant, caused by a variety of issues. Obviously, irrigation is the primary cause of this malady. Irrigation coverage, clogged irrigation heads or an irrigation zone that is not working is the most common. However, we are now finding that in the newer homes the soil substrate is made up of variables that can cause water to leach through the profile more rapidly causing these dry areas. If you see this, my suggestion is to add either more time or more frequency to the irrigation zone to compensate for this anomaly. After a few years, the soil profile holds more moisture and this generally takes care of that problem.

These months for us are the most critical. Weeds are popping up from fertilizer and late April thru May is the optimum months to apply chinch bug chemistry, wall to wall, to all turf areas to suppress those pesky insects. A side benefit of this application is the control of any nuisance ants that may be popping up. Please be assured that Gardenmasters always has and always will use the safest environmentally friendly chemistry available for control of these insects.

Mothers

By: Rodney Smith

Mother's Day is fast approaching so I thought I should dedicate this article to the mothers of the pest world.

The adult female German roach will carry the egg capsule until it's almost ready to hatch, then deposit it in a protected location near food and harborage. Most other species drop the egg capsule as soon as it forms and never deal with it again. No Mother's Day card for them!

The cigarette beetle is one of the pantry pests. The female will lay her eggs on food products such as dog food or breakfast cereals. The larva is nearly white except for a distinctive group of yellowish-brown markings giving it the appearance of a little clown face. Remember all babies are beautiful!

Wolf spiders are large, hairy, fast spiders that can be found inside or outside year-round in Florida. They are hunting spiders so they do not make a web. The female carries her eggs on her back until they hatch, then continues to carry them until old enough to "move out". Sound familiar?

So, with all this in mind, call your mother on her special day and thank her for being so good to her little "pest".

Florida Spring Months

By: Colt Partin

Spring has arrived and here in Florida that means dry season. We often see our temperatures rise into the 80's and even into the 90's. Also, there is a lot wind with little to no rain. In preparation, we have fertilized your landscape plants and palms in February and the turf in March. In late April through May, we will be fertilizing your grass again and applying insecticide to your entire yard.

The following are some things you can do to help keep your yard looking beautiful:

St. Augustine turf should be mowed at a height of 3.5 to 4.5 inches and Zoysia turf should be mowed at a height of 2 to 3 inches. During the dry, hot months you should have the grass mowed at the highest recommended cut height for your turf to provide protection from evaporation.

Most yards should be irrigated 2 to 3 times a week with spray heads set for 20-35 minutes in unshaded areas and rotating heads set for 45-60 minutes in unshaded areas. An easy way to tell if you need to water before the turf is damaged is to step on the grass, if it springs back after you lift your foot – you're golden, but if it leaves a footprint you need to water.

Lastly, if you see something that isn't looking right give us a call. We would rather diagnose and treat a problem that arises in between our visits before it has time to inflict large scale damage.



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.