

## TIMES

A monthly E-Newsletter for Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions

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What we are doing this month and why

This month we will continue to apply our **growing season fertilizer formula which contains nitrogen**. Nitrogen encourages growth and green color. This formula also includes, potassium and several minor nutrients as well. We are also continuing to apply **pre-emergent weed control** to suppress weeds. We will apply **pre-emergent weed control** throughout the year to keep constant pressure on weed populations. We are also applying **post emergent weed control** to control actively growing weeds. We continue to see some sodwebworm activity and are now applying **insecticide** with our treatments to control them.

Disease has not been a big issue so far this year due to the overall moderate levels of rain and high temperatures. We will apply **fungicide** as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.



#### HOW FREQUENT MOWING HELPS IMPROVE LAWN DENSITY AND SUPPRESS WEED GROWTH

Frequently mowing your lawn does more than keep it looking tidy, it actually promotes the lawn's health in a couple different ways. First, it promotes lawn density. Imagine a shrub that's only pruned infrequently, it will produce a few long branches instead of multiple short ones and become tall and leggy instead of short and dense. The same thing happens with grass. Infrequent mowing produces a lawn with longer, fewer blades. Frequent mowing produces a denser lawn with more blades. Note: This does NOT mean cutting the grass shorter and shorter. It means cutting the grass at its optimum height on a regular basis. The second benefit of frequent mowing is that it puts pressure on weeds. Many varieties of weeds do not thrive at the same height grass thrives at and causes them stress by continually cutting them off, making them more susceptible to herbicide applications.



#### HOW TO DEAL WITH ARMADILLOS IN YOUR LAWN

Armadillos are native to the Americas and have been here long before humans arrived. They become a nuisance to home owners when they dig for food in manicured lawns. Armadillos are nocturnal animals and their activity looks like someone used a claw hammer to pull up chunks of grass in a lawn. Lawns that are affected by armadillos usually border natural areas where the armadillo has a den. Armadillos feed on a variety of insects and invertebrates. Treating the lawn with insecticide to eliminate the food source is not practical since it is impossible to eradicate all the insects in the soil (and even if it were possible, it would be irresponsible since the majority of soil insects are beneficial). The only way to deal with armadillos is to trap them. In spite of the fact that armadillos have a highly developed sense of smell, no one has ever discovered an attractant that works on armadillos.

Consequently, they must be funneled into a trap.

A funnel can be constructed out of 10 foot long 2x10s placed on edge. First, try to identify the point of entry the armadillo is using to enter the lawn from the adjacent natural area. Place the wide end of the funnel there and a live animal trap at the small end end of the funnel. It may take repositioning the trap a number of times and a lot of patience to finally catch it.

#### THREE LAWN PROBLEMS THAT CANNOT BE SOLVED WITH CHEMICALS.

Sometimes it's easy to make the mistake of assuming if your grass is not healthy, it needs to be treated for something. The truth is, not all lawn problem are caused by insects, diseases or lack of fertilizer, environment also plays a vital role in lawn health.

Here are three specific environmental conditions that cause lawns to decline:

1. Too much shade. Over the years, tree canopies can expand, robbing light from the grass which will eventually decline from lack of sunlight. Keep lower tree limbs pruned up and tree canopies thinned out to let in as much light as possible for the lawn.
2. Too much root competition. Roots from trees, mature shrubs and native plants can invade soil space used by turf grass and eventually make the soil so root bound the tender grass roots are unable to penetrate it. Periodically top dress root bound soil with sand to allow the grass a little more free soil space to thrive in.
3. Too much thatch. Lawns can actually become too dense. When this happens there is too much top growth for the root system to support, making the lawn weak and putting it in decline. Dethatch the lawn occasionally to reduce lawn density to keep a balance between roots and top growth.

#### WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

At the time of this writing, we are forecasted to have typical summer weather with high temperatures in the 90s with sporadic precipitation. Under these conditions, it is appropriate to watering 5-7 times a week. Always apply 30-45 minutes of water per zone when irrigating. The ideal time of day to water is in the early morning hours, while the dew is still on the ground. This is generally between midnight and 8 AM.

The advantage of watering during this time is

1. You are not extending the number of hours during the day the grass is wet there by encouraging disease activity.
2. Less water is lost to evaporation.
3. There is less wind during the night to blow the spray pattern off target.

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