

## 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 TO RECOGNIZE DROUGHT STRESS IN YOUR LAWN

We are currently in a dry weather pattern with warm temperatures, low humidity and no rain. Under these conditions, drought stress may show up in your lawn even though you are watering. Drought stress usually appears as irregular patches of grass in the lawn that are a bluish gray color that eventually turn brown. Other indications of drought stress are the individual blades of the grass folding together as well as the soil in those areas is powdery dry. Very few sprinkler systems provide perfect coverage over the entire lawn and during drought conditions, gaps in irrigation coverage will start to show up. Just because the grass is getting wet doesn't mean it is getting enough water to keep it out of drought stress. Here are some things to do if areas of your lawn are showing drought stress: Increase the time and frequency of irrigation cycles. In drought conditions watering every day for 45 minutes to an hour may be necessary. Replace existing sprinkler head nozzles with larger nozzles that distribute a greater volume of water to the area the sprinkler is covering. Adjust sprinkler heads for maximum efficiency. Add additional sprinkler heads or entire zones to the irrigation system.



### MAKE SURE THERE'S ENOUGH SUNLIGHT FOR YOUR NEW SOD!

I was asked to inspect some newly laid sod. The sod was installed in an area that was about 80% shaded and three weeks after being laid, the sod had not even begun to root! (Pictured). Normally in the middle of the growing season, it would take about a week for the grass to root in. Plants get their energy from sunlight. When new sod is planted, it needs an abundance of energy to grow a brand new root system plus produce new grass blades. If there is not enough energy (sunlight) available, the sod will never grow a root system and eventually decline and die from not having enough energy.

My recommendation to this homeowner was to hire an arborist immediately and thin out as much of the tree canopy as they possibly could to let in more light to try to save the sod. Unfortunately, having all that tree work done is going to create even more traffic stress on the new sod. It would have been much better to have taken care of the tree canopy before the sod was planted.



### SELLING YOUR HOME? THREE SIMPLE, COST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO QUICKLY IMPROVE YOUR LANDSCAPE.

1. Treat weeds and patch in dead areas of your lawn with sod.

If you haven't been as diligent as you should have been at keeping up the condition of your lawn, some areas may have declined. It's not necessary to re-sod your entire lawn if only a few areas are bare. Sod can be patched in to the bare areas and will establish in a few weeks during the growing season. Having a professional come treat the weeds in the lawn before it is put on the market is a good idea because you don't want to run the risk of injuring the lawn with herbicide by doing it yourself right before you go to sell it.

2. Clean out planting beds and refresh the mulch.

Even if the lawn is not in perfect condition, it doesn't take much effort to create pristine planting beds by removing all the weeds and applying fresh mulch. Clean planting beds adds tremendous eye appeal to the landscape.

3. Simplify your landscape. Sometimes less is more.

Many times you can enhance your landscape by completely removing overgrown shrubs, planting beds or reducing the size of planting beds in the yard. Over time mature landscapes tend to get a jungle look. You can add a lot of curb appeal by simply thinning out the jungle and simplifying the landscape.

### 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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