

# :S : SOUTHERN LAWN TIMES



A Monthly E-Newsletter for Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions  
December 2023

## What we are doing this month and why

What we are doing this month and why. This month we will continue to apply our fall/winter fertilizer formula which contains potassium. Potassium encourages root growth which enables the grass to store carbohydrates for next spring when it comes out of dormancy. We are also continuing to apply pre-emergent weed control to suppress winter 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. The only turf destroying insect that is still active this time of year is mole crickets and we will treat them as needed. Disease was prevalent a month ago when the weather was a bit warmer. Now that temperatures are cooler disease is not as active. We will apply fungicide as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.

Mole crickets remain active and we will treat mole crickets as needed when they are present.

## HOW TO CONTROL GREEN BRIAR VINE

Green briar is an invasive vine that frequently invades planting beds and natural landscape areas. It has thorns and a large potato like root that can be hard to pull out, especially if it is growing up through a shrub. Round Up will effectively kill green briar but it may take more than one application. If the vine is intertwined with a desirable plant, gently pull the green briar vine away from the non target plant, making sure the vine stays attached to the root. Then lay the vine on the ground and spray it with Round Up, being careful not to spray the desirable plant. The vine will die in 1-2 weeks. If necessary, treat it more than once. By the way, the soft, new growth at the tips of green briar vines are edible and make a tasty addition to salads!



## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT MUSHROOMS GROWING IN YOUR LAWN?

Mushrooms grow off of decomposing roots and stumps under the ground and pop up when moisture and temperature conditions are conducive for the spores to grow (usually cool, wet spring and fall weather). They don't harm the grass and there is no product they make to treat them with. Once the weather turns cold or warms up, depending on the season, they will go away. In the mean time the only other option is to pluck them.



## QUESTION ABOUT ZOYSIA GRASS FROM A FOLLOWER:

Q. I remember seeing ads for plugs for your lawn, Zoysia grass that takes over your lawn and crowds out weeds and inferior grass? Is that bulls\*\*t or what's the story on Zoysia?

A. Zoysia is an excellent grass! It is very dense and does a great job at out competing weeds. It has a nice, dark green color and in my experience, experiences fewer problems than either centipede or St. Augustine. However, establishing a zoysia lawn from plugs is a long process because one of zoysia's characteristics is slow growth. Establishing a zoysia lawn by plugging can certainly be done, but be prepared to wait several years for it to fill in. Using sod is a much straighter line between your current grass and a zoysia lawn!

## Watering Instructions

**Irrigation systems can now be turned off until next March.**