

: : SOUTHERN LAWN TIMES



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

January 2024

What we are doing this month and why

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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. Now that temperatures are cooler disease is less active. We will apply fungicide as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.

NEW IMPROVED SHRUB AND ORNAMENTAL SERVICE FOR 2024!

For those of you who have service for your shrubs and ornamental plants, you will now receive an extra visit each month from a technician specifically for your shrubs and ornamentals. We believe by assigning a separate technician specifically to look at your landscape plants each month, we can improve our quality of plant care.



WHY DOES THE GRASS NOT GROW ON A CERTAIN SIDE OF MY HOUSE?

Many people have at least one side of their home where the grass does not grow well or even at all. Most of the time, fences that run along property lines create a narrow corridor as they run beside the house. This limits the amount of direct sunlight that reaches grass growing between the fence and the house, causing the grass to decline. Even without a fence, the first few feet of the ground from the foundation of the home on the north side is usually constantly shaded making the north side of a home a difficult area to grow grass. In these areas that are constantly shaded, it is better to install rock, shrubs or a shade tolerant ground cover rather than trying to grow grass.

HOW TO TRIM SAGO PUPS OFF THE MOTHER PLANTS

Sago palms are a popular landscape feature with their dark green fronds and small overall size.

After becoming established, sago palms produce outgrowths from their base and trunks, these outgrowths are referred to as "pups" If left alone, these pups will grow and multiply and the sago will eventually look more like a big round shrub than a palm. Therefore it is necessary to periodically remove the pups from the base of the sago and from the trunk if you want the sago to maintain a single trunk with a single head of fronds.

Removing the pups from the mother plant is relatively simple. Jab a very sturdy shovel or ax in between the mother plant and the pup and pry the pup loose. You should hear it 'pop' as it snaps away from the mother trunk and then finish cutting it loose. If you want to propagate the pups, trim off all the fronds and plant the pup in the ground. In a few months to a year, the pup will grow roots and push out new fronds.



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CENTIPEDE AND ZOYSIA GRASS

This is a great example of the difference between centipede and zoysia. Last summer I patched some zoysia in my lawn where some centipede had declined. The two grasses did fine together and during the growing season, you could hardly distinguish the difference between the two.

It is now the middle of March, after about 4 -5 months of dormancy.

You can clearly see how well the zoysia overwintered versus the centipede. That's because the zoysia is so much denser than the centipede. As both types of grass lost a portion of their density over the winter, the zoysia held up considerably better than the centipede.

Given about 6 weeks of warm temperatures above 80 and some fertilizer, the centipede will recover to where it was at the end of last growing season but the zoysia will be there a lot sooner!



Watering Instructions

Irrigation systems can now be turned off until next March.