

• • SOUTHERN LAWN TIMES



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

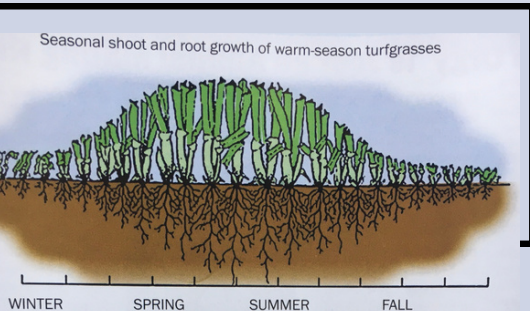


WHAT PALMS GROW WELL ALONG THE EMERALD COAST?

Nothing says "Florida" in a landscape like palm trees. However, there is a significant difference in the climate between northwest Florida and the southern part of the state. That's why it's important when planting palms, to choose palms that to well in the colder climate we have along the Emerald Coast. Palms that are not cold tolerant can be stunted or even killed by the occasional freezing weather we experience here. Sable (or cabbage) palms are one the the most common and hardy palms. They require little fertilizer and are very cold tolerant. For a cold hardy palm with long, elegant fronds, pindo palms are a good choice. Pindo palms also produce edible fruit in the summer and have no special nutritional requirements. Washingtonian palms look similar to sable palms but grow much faster and they have rows of very sharp thorns on the stalks of their fronds. They have a moderate cold tolerance and can die when temperatures drop into the low 20s and below for several hours. Canary Isle date palms are large majestic looking palms that have massive trunks and long droopy fronds. They can be grown along the Emerald Coast however, their fronds are susceptible to freeze damage and take a long time to grow back if damaged. The whole tree can die if the temperature stays well below freezing for several hours. Canary Isle Date Palms also require heavy fertilizer, otherwise their fronds will become yellow.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY FROZEN PLANTS?

This winter's freeze has affected many landscape plants in our area that are not cold tolerant. Even if much of the plant was affected by the freeze, it still may come back from the root system next spring. Leaving dead and frozen plant material in place until any possibility of freeze is over, will insulate the live portion of the plant from subsequent freezes. However, many people prefer to remove the dead plant material for ascetic reasons. If you choose to prune the plant back, look for any green on the plant and cut it back to there.



OVER THE WINTER YOUR LAWN LOSES A LOT OF ITS MASS

This graph put out by the University of Florida, illustrates the seasonal fluctuations of root and top growth density in warm season turf grasses that we have here in Northwest Florida. Over the winter, turf grasses lose a significant amount of mass that they must regain, starting in the spring. That's why, even though your lawn may have been lush in the fall, it may look thin and weak in the spring.

When spring comes and your lawn starts to come out of dormancy, don't panic if it doesn't look as good as it did at the end of last fall. It needs several weeks of warm weather to regain the density it lost over the winter.

Watering Instructions

Irrigation systems can now be turned off until next March.

