

: : SOUTHERN LAWN TIMES



A Monthly E-Newsletter for Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions
June 2024

What we are doing this month and why

This month we will continue to apply our **warm season fertilizer formula that contains nitrogen**. Nitrogen encourages top growth and green color. In addition to nitrogen, this formula also contains phosphorus and potassium as well as many minor nutrients the grass needs to be healthy! 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 have begun to see some **sod webworm** activity so we are adding **insecticide** to our treatment formula. **Disease** is most active between 70° and 80°. We are past that window now but will continue to keep a close eye out for disease activity and apply **fungicide** as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.

A MOWING TIP TO KEEP YOUR LAWN HEALTHY!

Keep your mower blade sharp!

Using a sharp blade to mow your lawn instead of a dull one is the same difference between using a knife to remove the tips of the grass blades or a club. A dull mower blade will leave the grass tips frayed, giving the lawn a dull, brown appearance and allowing greater opportunity for disease intrusion. Many factors determine how often you may need to sharpen your mower blade such as size of the lawn, how often it's mowed, how much sand you run over (mowing over sand will dull a mower blade very quickly) and the type of grass you are mowing. Zoysia and St. Augustine grasses are the most susceptible to damage from a dull mower blades. I recommend having two sets of blades on hand so that you can always have a freshly sharpened set to put on and use while you take the other set to be sharpened. I also recommend you have a professional mower shop sharpen the blades. They will be able to sharpen them at the correct

angle and the sharpening will last longer than if you try to do it yourself on a simple bench grinder.



WHAT IS THE BEST TYPE OF GRASS?

I get asked this question frequently. The truth is, there is no one "best type of grass". All types of grass have their strengths and weaknesses. It really depends on the environment, how you are going to use the grass and how much maintenance you want to put into it. Here are some of the main strengths and weaknesses of the different types of grass that grow along the Emerald Coast.

CENTIPEDE

Strength: Low maintenance, requires little fertilizer.

Weakness: If maintained properly doesn't create a lush lawn. If over maintained with too much water and fertilizer, dies out eventually.

ST. AUGUSTINE

Strength: The most shade tolerant of all warm season grasses.

Weakness: Chinch bugs and not traffic tolerant.

BERMUDA

Strength: Very durable, traffic and drought tolerant.

Weakness: Not shade tolerant, needs lots of sun.

ZOYSIA

Strength: Creates lush thick lawn that does a great job out competing weeds.

Weakness: Slow growing, slow to recover from problems. Invasive growth into surrounding planting beds.

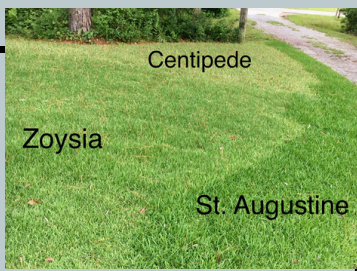
BAHIA

Strength: Low maintenance, drought tolerant.

Centipede

Zoysia

St. Augustine



HOW TO SET A PIN AND DIAL SPRINKLER TIMER

If you have never had a sprinkler system to maintain, setting the timer can be a little confusing. A "pin and dial" timer has two dials, a large one and a small one. The small one determines which days the system comes on and has 14 pins which represent 2 weeks of settings. If the pin is pushed in, the system will come on that day. If the pin is pulled out, the system will not come on. (Note: timers that have metal pins instead of plastic are the opposite. Pull the pin out to water and push in to skip that day.) The large dial determines what time of day and for how long each zone comes on by the placement of pegs on the dial. Each peg represents 15 minutes of run time. So for instance, 3 pegs = 45 minutes. There should be a space between each group of pegs for every zone of the system. The timer in the picture is a five zone system set to come on at 2:00 A.M. and run 45 minutes on the first two zones and 30 minutes on the other three zones. The small dial is set so the system comes on one day and the skips two days.



WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

At the time of this writing, we are in a dry weather pattern with warm temperatures, high pressure, low humidity and no significant rain in the forecast. Under these conditions, most lawns will require irrigating **4 to 5 times per week** to stay out of drought stress. The best time of day to apply irrigation is while the dew is still on the ground, **between midnight and 8 AM**. This way, you're not extending the number of hours in the day the grass is wet. The longer the grass is wet, the more likely disease activity will occur.