



What we are doing this month and why

This month we will begin applying our fall/winter season fertilizer formula which contains potassium. Potassium encourages the grass to store carbohydrates in its root system. This stored energy will be used next spring when it comes out of dormancy. 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.

Sod webworm activity is slowing down quite a bit. We will continue adding insecticide for them with our treatments as long as they are active.

Disease is most active between 70° and 80°. We are approaching that temperature window now so we will keep a close eye out for disease activity and apply fungicide as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.

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.

Of course the best thing to do is to keep your lawn and landscape healthy and maintained all the time so very little is needed to be done when you go to put your house on the market.



HERE IS THE EASIEST WAYS TO DEAL WITH LEAVES IN YOUR YARD!

Trees can add beauty and tranquility to a landscape. But they can also add quite a bit of maintenance as well!

Some trees shed for long periods of time making the task of leaf pick up almost a full time job!

Here is a way to make leaf collection and disposal more manageable.

Instead of using a rake, invest in a powerful back pack blower. It will set you back a few hundred dollars but the time you save over the long run will be well worth it if you deal with a lot of leaves!

Blowers move far more leaves, with far less effort, in a fraction of the time than using hand rakes. If you purchase a blower, spend the extra money to get the most powerful model they have.

Spending that little extra money will equate to many hours saved moving leaves.

And don't waste your time or money on those hand held leaf vacuums. It takes for ever to suck a yard full of leaves through a 3 inch wide tube into a bag that has to be emptied every 30 seconds.

When you have blown the leaves into piles, the quickest way to bag them is to get a helper.

One person stands holding the edge of the bag on the ground with their feet spread apart and holding the other edge up while the other person stuffs the leaves in the bag.

If you have a place on your property to just dump them, the quickest, easiest way to move leaves across the yard is to rake the piles onto a large tarp and drag the tarp to where you want to dump the leaves.



HOW FATHER AND SON PEST AND LAWN SOLUTIONS GOT STARTED!

In 2003 my son Buddy was 13 and I had recently sold a lawn and pest control business I had started 10 years before. We homeschooled Buddy, along with our other 4 children. Buddy was a very bright kid but abhorred book work which was causing considerable friction between him and his mother.

So, to protect them both from one another, I suggested to Buddy that he and I start a father and son lawn care business together and I could incorporate learning into all the different aspects of running the business.

Buddy liked the idea and "Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions" was born! We worked together for about 5 years when Buddy decided to join the Army in early 2009. After serving 5 years as an EOD specialist in the Army he is now back in the business and we are once again, a father and son team!



WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

At the time of this writing (the last week of September), temperatures are cooling into the 80s and we are getting periodic rain. Under these conditions, supplemental irrigation is usually necessary 2-3 days a week. However, this is Florida and the weather changes frequently. If the weather pattern turns dry and we have several days of no rain and low humidity, you may need to increase irrigation frequency. Also, if rain frequency increases then the irrigation frequency should be decreased.

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.

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