



Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions NEWSLETTER

December 2024

WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

Cooler temperatures combined with the shorter days this time of year greatly reduced water requirements for grass. Therefore we recommend shutting off irrigation systems now until next spring. Allowing the system to continue to run through the winter is unnecessary and increases the likelihood of disease activity.



What we are doing this month and why.

This month we will continue 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.

Mole crickets are the only turf destroying insect that remains active through the winter. However, the colder it gets the less active they become. We will treat them as needed. Disease is most active between 70° and 80°. We are fluctuating back and forth around that temperature window so we will keep a close eye out for disease activity and apply fungicide as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.



MY DOGS HAVE DESTROYED MY BACK YARD.

HOW SHOULD I REPAIR IT?

I was recently asked this question from a Facebook follower. Here is my answer:

Replacing it with new sod would probably be the best solution. You won't be able to get the grass to recover while it's being worn down by the dogs. Bermuda has the best wear tolerance of any grass but it doesn't tolerate any shade. If you have shade, zoysia is the next best option. Once the new grass is established, you'll want to fertilize it about once a month during the growing season to help it continually recover from the wear from the dogs. If you can, when you install the new sod, do 1/2 of the yard at a time. Section off half the area to install the new sod and keep the dogs off it until it gets rooted in. Then do the same for the other section.

THIS IS THE MAN THAT GAVE ME MY START IN THE LAWN BUSINESS!

One day I was visiting my father in law, Chuck, at the nursing home where he spent the final days of his life. I took him for a stroll around the property so he could enjoy the bright sunshine and crisp outdoor air. As I pushed his wheel chair through the parking lot and around the facility, memories of nearly 30 years ago came flooding in. I had just been let go from my job at an auto repair shop and he made room for me and brought me into his fledgling pest control and lawn business he started after retiring from the Air Force. He taught me a lot about chemicals, bugs and grass but the biggest deposit he made in my life in the three years I worked with him was what he taught me about people worked with him was what he taught me about people and how to take care of customers. If it had not been for him and what he did for me almost 3 decades ago, I would not be where I am today! I am grateful for this man!



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 meantime the only other option is to pluck them.

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