



Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions

NEWSLETTER

March 2025

WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

Temperatures remain cool with periodic rainfall, therefore it has not been necessary to irrigate. I've even laid new sod at one of my properties recently and have not even had to water it yet. Cool temperatures combined with moist conditions set up an ideal environment for disease to become active. Therefore as long as temperatures remain in the 70s and we are getting rain about once a week, the grass does not need to be irrigated. Weather patterns always fluctuate in the spring, if precipitation patterns change, be ready to turn on that irrigation system



What we are doing this month and why.

This month we will continue applying our fertilizer formula which contains potassium.

Potassium encourages the grass to store carbohydrates in its root system. This stored energy will be used as the grass 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 at this time. We will

treat them as needed.

Disease is most active between 70° and 80°.

We will be passing through that temperature window for the next few weeks so we will keep a close eye out for disease activity and apply fungicide as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.

WHEN SHOULD WE EXPECT OUR LAWN TO START TURNING GREEN?

There are a number of factors that control when lawns come out of dormancy and start turning green. The biggest factor however is temperature. Once temperatures stay above 70° grass will begin to produce new, green growth. Some types of grasses respond to warmer temperatures more quickly than others. Centipede grass is very responsive and will start producing green shoots within less than 24 hour of a temperature warm up. St. Augustine takes longer than centipede and zoysia takes longer than both. Also, some parts of your lawn can come out of dormancy faster than other parts depending on how much shade or direct sunlight the different areas receive. So, if this spring you notice your neighbor's lawn a little greener than yours, you should have no need to worry. It is probably a different type of grass or just getting a little more sun.



YOUR LAWN HAS LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT OVER THE WINTER!



In the winter, lawns go into dormancy or hibernation. During this time the lawn actually loses a lot of its mass. Over the winter the lawn sheds up to 50 percent of its root mass along with about as much grass blades and runners. A lot of people begin to panic when they start to see their lawn come out of dormancy in the spring and realize it's not as dense or lush as it was last year. Don't be anxious at the state of your lawn in early spring but give it time to regain the root structure and top growth that it lost over the winter. Temperature plays a significant part in how fast the lawn starts recovering what was lost. Even though it will turn green, grass does not start growing very quickly until the temperatures get into the mid 80s. Some years this happens sooner than others. This year we have had a relatively cool spring which has restarted the growth of the grass. Be patient. A few weeks of warm, summery weather will stimulate the growth needed to make your lawn pretty again!

WHAT ARE THESE MOUNDS COMING UP IN MY YARD?

Recently a follower sent me a picture along with this question: We have these coming up in our yard and they have bees living in the ground. I'm worried they are going to sting my kids. I follow your page and came to your seminars and was going to see if you could tell me how to treat them and what they are?



Here was my reply:

These are parasitic wasp mounds. These small wasps burrow down into the ground to find an insect to paralyze and lay their eggs on and then fly away. Later on this year, the eggs will hatch, the larvae will feed on the insect and later turn into a wasp. The adult wasps are not aggressive and are not using the holes as nests. As long as you don't accidentally step on one of the wasps, they shouldn't bother you.

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