



# Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions

## NEWSLETTER

April 2025

### WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

Temperatures remain relatively cool with periodic rainfall, watering 2-3 days a week right now is sufficient. As temperatures warm and/or we get less precipitation, that frequency should increase. Cool temperatures combined with moist conditions set up an ideal environment for disease to become active. Therefore as long as temperatures remain in the 70's and we are getting rain about once a week, the grass does not need to be irrigated more than 2-3 times a week. Weather patterns always fluctuate in the spring, if precipitation patterns increase, be ready to turn off that irrigation system!

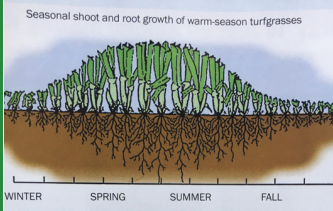


### What we are doing this month and why.

This month we will begin applying our spring fertilizer formula which contains **NITROGEN**. **Nitrogen** encourages the grass to produce new growth and chlorophyll which makes it green. 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 are 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 YOU DETHATCH YOUR LAWN?

Contrary to popular opinion, thatch is not a result of leaving grass clippings on your lawn. Thatch actually comes from the accumulation of too many runners or "stolens" in the lawn. Most southern turf grasses grow laterally as well as horizontally. This lateral growth periodically needs to be reduced or the lawn will become unhealthy and fall into decline. Just as mowing keeps the grass from getting too high, dethatching keeps the grass from getting too dense. The best time of year to dethatch is in late spring to early summer, after the grass is out of dormancy so there is plenty of growing season left for the grass to recover from the dethatching. The best way to dethatch is to rent a dethatcher. Motorized, walk behind dethatchers do a much better job than dethatching lawn mower attachments. Going over the lawn with a mower after using a dethatcher will reduce the volume of debris you will need to handle from the dethatching process. Here are some indicators that it is time to dethatch your lawn:  
The grass feels spongy and soft when you walk on it.  
The lawn is so dense it is hard to push a mower through it.  
It's hard to feel the soil with your fingertips through the grass.  
You water and fertilize frequently.



### 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!

### Should I seed the bare spots in my lawn?

I recently received this question from a customer who moved here from the Midwest last year:

"Skip, In Indiana if I had a bald spot in my lawn I would scratch the area with a stiff tine rake in March or April, and sprinkle some grass seed, keep it watered and watch the grass grow. Do I do the same thing in Navarre?? Thank you," Here was my reply:

Warm season grasses that we grow here are much different than the fescue & Kentucky blue that is grown in the Midwest. For the most part, warm season turf grasses are very hard to establish from seed. However, all the types of grass we grow in this area move laterally, so as long as the growing conditions are good, the grass will migrate to fill in bare areas and also increase density. The best way to deal with bare areas and increase lawn density with warm season turf grasses is to: make sure there is no root competition or too much shade from trees that is causing the grass to decline. Make sure all areas are being double covered by at least two irrigation heads. Install sod or grass plugs if you don't want to wait for the bare areas to fill in from the edges on its own.



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