



Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions NEWSLETTER

July 2025

WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

We are now in a typical summer weather pattern with scattered thunderstorms popping up on a regular basis. Ideally, it's best to water the grass as needed. So if you're in an area that is getting thunder showers 2-4 times a week, supplemental irrigation shouldn't be necessary. However, life is hectic sometimes, and keeping track of how often it's rained and whether you need to water or not isn't always a priority. Therefore if you want to "set it and forget it" 3-4 days a week would be a good frequency for now.

Early morning between midnight and 8:00 AM is the best time to water. Watering at this time of day will not prolong the number of hours the grass is already wet from the dew, decreasing the likelihood of disease, less water will be lost to evaporation and the wind is calmer at night, not blowing the irrigation stream off course.



What we are doing this month and why.

This month we will continue applying our growing season 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 active at this time. We will treat them as needed. We have seen very little **sod web worm** or **chinch bug** activity yet this year. When we do we will be adding insecticide to our overall treatment mix.

Disease - we are now past the temperature window most disease activity occurs but we will keep a close eye out for disease activity and apply **fungicide** as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A HEALTHY LAWN?

This may seem like an obvious question. However, if you have the wrong concept of what a "healthy" lawn should be like, you may be led to over maintain and eventually kill your lawn. We often see fertilizer ads promoting the application of their products for a "thicker & greener lawn". That would lead one to believe that the thicker and greener your lawn is, the better...and that's just not true! Some of the grasses we grow in this area, like centipede, are naturally pale green. Turning them dark green with the application of too much fertilizer is unhealthy for centipede and will cause it to eventually decline. It is also unhealthy for the lawn to become too dense. When over fertilized, the lawn becomes "heavy" with more foliage than the roots can support and eventually declines. So, when assessing the health of your lawn, "thick and green" are not necessarily the determining factors. The lawn should be moderately dense but not "spongy", not in a state of decline and relatively free of weeds and pest activity.



SELLING YOUR HOME?

THREE SIMPLE, COST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO QUICKLY IMPROVE YOUR LANDSCAPE.

First, 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. Second, 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. Third, 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.

DO I REALLY NEED TO HAVE TERMITE PROTECTION FOR MY HOUSE?



Note: we do not offer termite protection but I have been in the pest control industry for decades and get asked this question frequently enough I thought I would address it. The short answer is yes, you should have termite protection on your home. Termite damage can be extremely costly to repair. So, like having insurance to protect against damage from storms or fire, you should have something to insure against termite damage. However, all termite programs are not the same. There are different types of treatments & most important, different types of warranties. Some company's warranties

only provide for re-treatment if termites occur. Other companies offer damage repair. Some warranties have exclusions such as water leaks or mulch against the house while some warranties exclude certain species of termites. The point is, termite protection is a really good thing to have but you need to make sure you know exactly what you're buying when you get it. If you already have termite protection, it would be a good idea to review your contract so you know exactly what coverages you have. If you don't have a termite protection program and plan to get it, be sure to review it thoroughly to understand the service and warranty and compare what different companies offer.

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