



Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

We are currently in a dry weather pattern with sunny days and relative low humidity. Under these conditions, grass can easily become drought stressed. Therefore, we recommend watering 4-5 days a week until we start getting more rain.

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 will be the last month 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 started to see some sod web worm and chinch bug activity now but it is limited. We will continue adding insecticide to our overall treatment mix as long as they are active. Drier weather will now decrease Disease activity although we will continue to watch for it and apply fungicide as needed.

IF YOU WAKE UP ONE MORNING AND YOUR TREE TRUNK IS COVERED IN A WEB...



A relatively uncommon creature, bark lice will occasionally show up on tree trunks and create some concern from their extensive web that can cover most of a tree trunk! These tiny insects however are harmless to the tree and actually beneficial in some ways. Technically they are not "lice" at all but are only named that because of their size. They are not parasites but feed on fungi, mold and dead plant tissue. At the end of the season, they will even devour their own web leaving no trace they were even there! Since these insects are not harmful and only feed on what the tree does not use, no treatment is recommended for them.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT TREE ROOTS COMPETING WITH GRASS?

Someone recently posted this question on our Facebook page:

"We have 2 big Birch trees in our yard. We would like to have grass either planted with seed or sodded. The problem is all the tree roots have taken over! So without

taking out the trees is there a solution to getting grass in our front yard? Thanks!" Here is my answer: The best way to deal with root competition from trees is to top dress the roots with an inch or two of sand and then lay sod on top of the sand. Then every couple years, top dress the root zone of the tree with 1/2 inch of sand and allow the grass to grow up through the sand. This will keep the grass from declining again from the root competition.



I'M HAVING PROBLEMS WITH BROWN PATCHY AREAS SHOWING UP IN MY ZOYSIA LAWN AFTER I MOW...

Zoysia grass blades grow like a corn stalk with a central stem and leaves protruding from the central stem. If the terrain your mowing is uneven, the higher areas of the lawn can get scalped and all the leaves cut off the central stalk resulting in brown patchy areas right after mowing.

A couple remedies would be:

1. Raise the cutting height so that it doesn't scalp the higher areas
2. Top dress the lawn with sand to raise up some of the lower areas and even out the lawn.

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