



Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

October 2025

WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

We are currently in a dry weather pattern with sunny days and relative low humidity and temperatures beginning to cool. Under these conditions, grass can still become drought stressed without supplemental irrigation. Therefore, we recommend watering 3-4 days a week until we start getting more rain or the temperatures cool more.

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 begin applying our fall/winter fertilizer formula which contains potassium. Potassium encourages the grass roots store energy the grass will need next spring to come 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 active at this time. We will treat them as needed. Sod web worm and chinch bug activity has mostly ceased for this year. Overall dryer weather will now decrease Disease activity although we will continue to watch for it and apply fungicide as needed.

SHOULD YOU USE ROCK IN YOUR PLANTING BEDS INSTEAD OF MULCH?

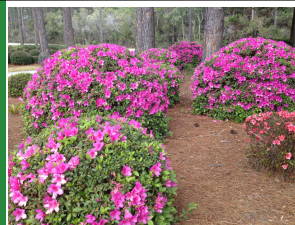


Using rock in planting beds definitely offers some advantages over using mulch. To begin with, rock never has to be refreshed. Once it is installed it stays there forever. It is more expensive than mulch but because it is permanent, it is a better long term value. Rock also offers superior weed control in planting beds when installed on top of weed cloth. Decorative rock comes in a variety of colors, shapes and sizes to choose from that will accent your landscape. Rock is not a good material to use in planting beds where trees drop a lot of leaves because the leaves will continually need to be blown out of the beds. In areas where there is a lot of leaf drop, a more natural looking mulch which the leaves will blend in with is a better choice. If you choose to install rock in your planting beds, it's a good idea to install a sturdy border to hold the rocks in place and guard them from being picked up and slung by powered lawn equipment.



HOW WELL DO DIFFERENT TYPES OF GRASSES BLEND TOGETHER?

It is sometimes necessary to replace an area of your lawn that has declined for one reason or another. If that becomes necessary, you may want to consider upgrading the type of grass you replace the declined area with. But how well will the newer, different grass blend with the existing lawn? The picture is an area that was sodded with zoysia, centipede and St. Augustine and you can see how the different grasses look next to one another. The St. Augustine stands out the most from the other two. The zoysia and centipede are the most similar. After a year or two, the lines of definition will become less noticeable as the grass grows laterally. So what is the best type of grass to replace a declined area with? Zoysia. Zoysia has fewer problems than centipede or St. Augustine. It grows into a beautiful turf that is so dense weeds have a hard time competing with it. You just need to decide if you're ok with the new grass looking different than the existing lawn if you don't already have zoysia.



IT'S TIME TO STOP TRIMMING AZALEAS

If you want a nice harvest of blooms from your azaleas next spring, they should not be trimmed any more this year. Azaleas bloom off the previous year's new growth. If they are trimmed this late in the growing season, they will not have an opportunity to produce much growth between now and fall when they stop growing. Trimming won't damage them if you're wanting to shape your azaleas, they just won't produce as many blooms next spring.

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