



# Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

December 2025

### WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

At this time sprinkler systems can now be shut off and irrigation pumps drained until next March.

**Are you having problems keeping your lawn healthy?  
Contact me for a FREE LAWN CONSULTATION! PM, call or text me at 850-240-7935**



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

What we are doing this month and why. This month we are continuing to 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 still active at this time. However, their activity slows down a bit in the cooler weather. We will treat them as needed. Cool moist can increase Disease activity, especially in St. Augustine and we will continue to watch for it and apply fungicide as needed.



### HOW TO DEAL WITH MOLES IN YOUR LAWN?

Moles are mammals about the size of a mouse that live underground and borrow through the soil. They have extremely powerful front legs and large front paws they use to tunnel with. They have a keen sense of smell they use to locate food but they have no eyes and are blind. Moles can create unsightly tunnels and mounds in a lawn with their borrowing, as well as destroy grass. Heavy populations of moles can destroy areas of a lawn. A common misconception is that treating a lawn with insecticide will drive the moles away since moles feed on insects. The reason this doesn't work is that it is impossible to eradicate all the insects from the soil. Even if it were possible to eradicate all the insects that live in the soil, it would not be responsible since most insects are beneficial, including earthworms, which happen to be a favorite food of moles. There are three basic methods for treating moles: traps, poisons and ultrasonic ground stakes, all of which can be ordered through Amazon or purchased at garden centers. Which one works best? Many of our customers have expressed success using the solar powered, ultrasonic stakes. And of all three methods, these are also the easiest to use and are the first method we recommend when trying to deal with moles.



### HOW CAN I GET MY PALMS TO STOP GROWING?

That was the question the caller on the other end of the line posed to me. What he had done was planted fast growing Washingtonia palms that were, at the time, only a couple feet tall in an area of his landscape that he didn't want tall palms. He didn't realize how fast Washingtonias grew. Now the trees were over his house and he dreaded seeing them get any taller! This is a common problem with Washingtonias palms. Garden centers sell baby Washingtonia palms in small pots you can take home in the back seat of your car. People buy them thinking they are cute, tropical foliage not realizing they grow into monster 20-30 foot trees, fairly fast. Washingtonia palms can grow a foot per year, unlike traditional sable palms that may take years to add a foot to their height. The stalks of Washingtonia fronds are also lined with needle sharp thorns, making them hazardous to prune, whereas sable palm stalks are smooth. Unfortunately, there is no way to stunt the growth of palm trees. If you inadvertently plant a Washingtonia palm tree in the wrong place without realizing how big it will get, you have two options. You can either dig it up and transplant, if it's not too big to handle, or simply cut it down.



### HOW TO TRIM SAGO PUPS OFF THE MOTHER PLANTS?

Sago palms are a popular landscape feature with their dark green fronds and small overall size. After becoming established, sago palms produce outgrowths from their base and trunks, these outgrowths are referred to as "pups". If left alone, these pups will grow and multiply and the sago will eventually look more like a big round shrub

than a palm. Therefore it is necessary to periodically remove the pups from the base of the sago and from the trunk if you want the sago to maintain a single trunk with a single head of fronds. Removing the pups from the mother plant is relatively simple. Jab a very sturdy shovel or ax in between the mother plant and the pup and pry the pup loose. You should hear it "pop" as it snaps away from the mother trunk and then finish cutting it loose. If you want to propagate the pups, trim off all the fronds and plant the pup in the ground. In a few months to a year, the pup will grow roots and push out new fronds.

PREFER TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OF OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?

A hard copy subscription to our newsletter mailed to you each month is available for only **\$47** per year! Call our office today 850-939-9868 to request your hard copy subscription!

*Support Set Free*  
WOMENS REFUGE



Scan Me  
Or visit:  
<https://givebetter.com/B7eOKD>

Copyright © 2025 Father And Son Pest and Lawn Solutions, All rights reserved.