



WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

We are currently in a very nice weather pattern for lawns. It's raining every few days, which is ideal for grass. I haven't had my sprinkler system on in the last 2 weeks! As long as this weather pattern continues, supplemental irrigation is not necessary. Watering in addition to regular precipitation can also encourage disease activity. However, sooner or later the weather will change again. When that happens, be ready to increase watering. Applying 1/2 inch of water during each irrigation cycle is recommended and most irrigation systems will do this if set to run for 45 minutes per zone. The best time to water your lawn is early morning when the dew is on the ground. Watering this time of day doesn't increase the number of hours the grass is wet in a day, reducing the likelihood of disease. Also, there is less evaporation of the irrigation water, so more water penetrates the soil and there is less wind which can blow the irrigation stream off course.



WHAT IS THE BEST MULCH TO USE IN PLANTING BEDS?

Mulch serves two basic purposes in landscape planting beds, weed prevention and aesthetics. There are three basic types of mulch, pine straw, bark and shredded wood. Pine straw is the least expensive and can even be gathered for free if you or a neighbor have a lot of pine trees in the yard, but it has the shortest lifespan, needing to be refreshed at least twice a year. Shredded wood mulch comes in a variety of colors including natural, red, dark brown and black. After it is installed it settles and forms a good "mat" against weeds and can last up to a year. Bark nuggets also come in a variety of colors. However, one of the disadvantages of using bark, it's so light and 'chunky' it never settles. In addition, has a tendency to migrate outside the bed lines with heavy rain, wind or maintenance. The thicker the mulch is installed, the better it will prevent weeds. It's not a good idea to use weed guard under the mulch because as the mulch breaks down, it becomes a growing medium for weeds. Weeds will start growing in the decomposing mulch on top of the weed cloth and their roots become imbedded in the fabric making them hard to remove.

AN EASY WAY TO FIX A SMALL HOLE OR CRACK IN AN IRRIGATION PIPE.



Fixing an irrigation leak can be a hassle if you have to dig out the pipe and splice in a new piece, especially if it's just a small hole or crack. Here is a trick you can use to repair small holes and cracks in irrigation lines without having to splice in a whole new section of pipe!

1. Cut a piece of thin wall PVC the same diameter as the pipe needing repair. Make it about 2 inches longer than the crack or hole you are trying to repair.
2. Cut the piece of PVC a second time long ways down the side.
3. Apply PVC glue to the inside of the "patch" piece you cut and to the outside of the pipe being repaired.
4. Pull the "patch" piece open along the long ways cut and let it snap over the pipe needing repair making sure the patch piece extends an inch or so beyond the damaged area.
5. Give the glue a few minutes to dry and your repair is complete!

SELLING YOUR HOME? THREE SIMPLE, COST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO QUICKLY



1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.



WHAT WE ARE DOING THIS MONTH & WHY?

This month we continue applying our spring and summer fertilizer formula. This formula contains nitrogen. Nitrogen is the primary nutrient that encourages the lawn to produce top growth. We are also continuing to apply pre-emergent weed control to suppress weeds. We 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 damaging insect that is active at this time. We will monitor and treat mole crickets as needed. Disease activity can be an issue as long as temperatures are in the 70 - 80 degree range, especially in St. Augustine and we will continue to watch for it and apply fungicide as needed. Last month and this month we are also adding extra IRON to our treatments. IRON is micro nutrient that encourages the production of chlorophyll, giving the grass a deeper green color.

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