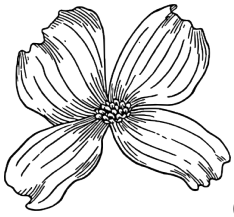


The Penny News Reader

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Peninsular Pest Control Service Inc

February-March 2011



SPRING TIME AND COLD DAMAGE

With another cold and blustery winter, damage to lawns and shrubs will be severe. We will not see the entire damage that has occurred from the record low temperatures for some time to come. In the aftermath of a freeze or hard frost, your woody plants may be looking haggard and their leaves are turning brown. Experts caution against removing or severely pruning cold-damaged plants until spring green-up. Give them time to bounce back. Watch for new growth in the spring, and then prune branches back to the green tissue.

St. Augustine grass is a semi-tropical grass which can be damaged by frost. **Some St. Augustine grass may be completely killed by the cold.** Generally when temperatures drop below 25 degrees there is heavy damage in a St. Augustine lawn. Lawn areas that were weak going into the winter due to stresses like chinch bugs, nematodes, mowing too short, poor drainage, or heavy foot traffic are most susceptible. Open areas are also more prone to cold damage versus areas lightly shaded by trees because trees help to hold in some ground heat. In some cases, large areas of turf are brown and are not coming back.

If you have brown areas in the lawn go ahead and rake out the dead runners and roots to prepare the soil. Try to match the new lawn with the existing variety of St. Augustine and plant these areas by installing sod or plugs. Sod creates an instant lawn plus weeds are less of a problem compared to plugs which has open areas of bare soil ideal for weeds to take hold. Plugs will be slow to fill in but is cheaper than using sod. If using plugs, space them six inches to 12 inches apart.

TIME TO GREEN UP

We are now making a liquid fertilizer application to our lawns to prepare for the spring green-up. This application of **liquid fertilizer** includes nitrogen and potassium to help stimulate root growth, in addition we are applying the microbial inoculant **Quantum Grow®** that enables the turf to better utilize nutrients and water. This application of fertilizer needs to be watered in properly to release the nutrients into the soil so the grass roots can pick them up.

CHECK IRRIGATION SYSTEM



Now is a good time to check your sprinkler system to make sure it is operating properly. After the freezing temperatures you may find some cracked pipes and or spray heads. An easy way to check your irrigation system is to place small straight sided cans (cat or dog food cans) two to four feet apart in a line from the sprinkler head to the outside of the zone. Turn on the sprinkler zone and run it for fifteen minutes, then measure the average depth in each can. Multiply this measurement by four to determine how much each zone puts out per hour. (Example- ¼ inch in 15 minutes equals 1 inch per hour).

Water should be applied at the rate of 1/2 an inch once per week, unless we have adequate rainfall to supply moisture for the lawn. When temperatures increase so does the lawns need for water. By properly applying moisture now we will encourage deep root growth so lawns will better survive conditions during times of drought. Be cautious of over watering, as this will only encourage fungus disease and weed infestation.

Please check us out online at www.crittergitter.com - schedule a service or ask a question.

Check out everything from eco tips to pestimonials.

Watering restrictions as found on <http://www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions/index.html>

Time of year	Homes with odd numbered or no addresses	Homes with even numbered addresses	Nonresidential properties
Daylight saving time	Wednesday/Saturday	Thursday/Sunday	Tuesday/Friday
Eastern Standard Time	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

- Daylight saving time: Second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in November
- Eastern Standard Time: First Sunday in November until the second Sunday in March
- An odd numbered address is one that ends in 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9.
- An even numbered address is one that ends in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8.
- Water only when needed and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Water for no more than one hour per zone.
- Restrictions apply to private wells and pumps, ground or surface water and water from public and private utilities.
- Exceptions – Watering in of chemicals, including insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides, and herbicides when required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices is allowed any time of day within 24 hours of application. Watering in of chemicals shall not exceed 1/4 inch of water per application except as otherwise required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices.



IS YOUR HOME PROTECTED FROM TERMITES?



“Help, I’ve got termites!” is an all too familiar phrase for many homeowners in Northeast Florida during the months of January thru March. The reproductive members or “swarmers” of the Eastern Subterranean Termite, appear in large numbers when weather conditions are favorable for them to find a mate and start a new family.

The swarmers are small black insects with 2 pairs of transparent wings that are longer than their body. Swarming flights usually occurs on a day after a rain shower when the temperature reaches the 70’s.

Worker termites are creamy white, blind and are the most numerous within the colony. They construct tubes made of soil particles in search of different cellulose food sources from tree stumps and cardboard boxes, to the studs in a home. Although the workers do all the damage they are seldom seen because they must remain in contact with the moisture within the tubes.

A thorough inspection by a qualified pest management professional is the first step in the control of subterranean termites. The inspector will not only look for obvious signs of subterranean termite activity such as small emergence holes, small depressions in wood trim, or mud tubes on a foundation wall but will also look for conditions that are conducive for termite activity. After a complete inspection the inspector will recommend a treatment program for curing the termite infestation or preventing a future attack.

Two different treatment techniques are available for subterranean termites, conventional liquid termiticide applications or termite baiting systems. Upon completion of the treatment the pest control company must issue a written termite protection contract for at least one year. It is important to continue this coverage if available should the termites re-infest the property or be found in another location within the structure.

DO YOU HAVE TERMITE PROTECTION ON YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS?

IF NOT CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION



World Golf Village . . . 940-3456
 Jacksonville 389-3491
 Beaches 246-8656
 Green Cove 264-1443
 St. Augustine 940-3456
 Middleburg 264-1443
 Mandarin 268-6550
 Southside 398-4547
 Westside 389-3491
 Orange Park 264-1443



“Northeast Florida’s Leading Pest Control Service Company Since 1954”