

# SOUTHERN LAWN TIMES



A Monthly E-Newsletter for Father and Son Pest and Lawn Solutions  
April 2024

## What we are doing this month and why

This month we will continue to apply our **cool season fertilizer formula which contains potassium**. Potassium encourages root growth which enables the grass to store carbohydrates for when it comes out of dormancy. Once temperatures are consistently above 80° we will begin applying our **growing season formula**, which contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. This should be sometime in the latter part of April. 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.

The only turf destroying insect that is active at this time is **mole crickets** and we will treat them as needed.

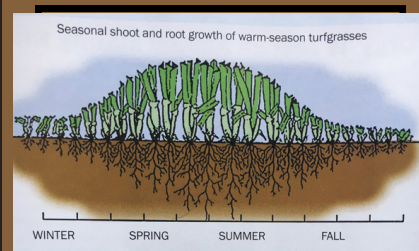
Disease is most active between 70° and 80°. We will keep a close eye out for disease activity as we transition from spring into summer and apply **fungicide** as needed when we notice disease activity occurring.

### YOUR LAWN HAS LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT OVER THE WINTER!

In the winter, lawns go into dormancy or hibernation. During this time the lawn actually loses a lot of its mass. Over the winter the lawn sheds

up to 50 percent of its root mass along with about as much grass blades and runners. A lot of people begin to panic when they start to see their lawn come out of dormancy in the spring and realize it's not as dense and lush as it was last year. Do not be anxious at the state of your lawn in early spring but to give it time to regain the root structure and top growth that it lost over the winter. Temperature plays a significant part in how fast the lawn starts recovering what was lost. Even though it will turn green, grass does not start growing very quickly until the temperatures get into the mid 80s. Some years this happens sooner than others. This year we have had a relatively cool spring which has retarded the the growth of the grass.

Be patient. A few weeks of warm, summery weather will stimulate the growth needed to make your lawn pretty again!



## I HAVE RUST IN MY WELL WATER THAT STAINS MY HOUSE AND DRIVEWAY. WHAT CAN I DO?

There are three ways to mitigate rust from well water.

1. Drill a 4" deep well to get down below the area of the aquifer that has iron. Cost is about \$4,000-\$5,000 but will solve the rust problem once and for all with no further expense or maintenance.
2. Install a rust inhibitor system on the irrigation system. This system consists of a 20 gallon plastic tank that a chemical rust inhibitor is mixed in. The mixture is then siphoned from the tank into the irrigation water as the pump runs. Cost is about \$500 - \$1,000 for the system. These systems don't always work completely depending on the concentration of iron in the water. They also require filling every couple days and routine maintenance along with the cost of the chemical to continually fill the tank.
3. Irrigate areas next to the house and hard surfaces with city water and irrigate areas in the middle of the lawn with the well water. The cost to convert the zones around the house and hard surfaces would be \$500+ in addition to the continual expense of the water used.

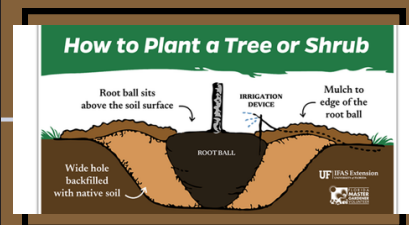


## WHY DO MY NEW SHRUBS KEEP DYING?

One of the most common causes I see for newly installed shrubs declining and dying is improper planting.

If the new plant is installed in a hole that is too deep so that soil or mulch covers the top of the root ball and some of the trunk of the plant, the constant moisture from the soil or mulch will begin to rot the base of the trunk and the plant will eventually die.

To properly install a new plant, leave about one inch of the root ball above the level of the existing soil grade and make sure there is no mulch pushed up against the trunk. This way, the base of the trunk will stay dry and healthy.



## Watering Instructions

Irrigation systems should be primed and ready to go. As of the time of this writing, the first week in April, it is not necessary to apply any supplemental irrigation yet because of the cooler temperatures and regular rain. As the temperature begins to increase and the weather pattern becomes drier, begin watering once or twice a week and increase the frequency as the temperatures get warmer and we experienced drier weather.