

Florida Pest Management, Inc
5533 Wesconnett Blvd
Jacksonville, Fl 32244

Lawn Program Facts and Guidelines

There are eight cycles in our lawn program. This first section is the outline of what each cycle consists of. Any of which is subject to change depending on the weather.

The cycles begin around January 15th of each year. They run on a 6 to 7 week period. Although we try to stay on a specific schedule, sometimes these cycles can run a little ahead or behind depending on the weather. These cycles are as follows.

A Preemergent (Weed seed suppression) is applied during the *first cycle* (beginning January 15th). This is to try to stop as much weed germination in the spring as possible.

The *second cycle* begins on around March 1st. On this cycle we will be applying a granular fertilizer and broadleaf weed control. A granular product is needed, to slowly and continually release a steady dose of nitrogen into the turf for vigorous spring growth. The broadleaf weed control is a slow acting herbicide. This will take approximately 6 to 12 weeks to reach peak effectiveness.

Cycles 3,4,5, and 6 are basically the same. These cycles begin on or around April 15th and run through the end of September. We will be applying a liquid fertilizer and Insect control. We will spot treat for broadleaf weeds until Florida Pest Management, Inc. deems it to hot to safely apply herbicides without injury to turf.

The *7th cycle* begins around October 1st. This cycle will consist of a liquid fertilizer, insecticide, and broadleaf weed control. Again, the herbicide used in this cycle is a slow acting suppression. It can take up to 6 to 12 weeks to reach its peak effectiveness.

The *8th and final cycle* begins in the beginning of December. This is the time of year when we will be applying a winterizer. This is very important for the turf. Winterizing the lawn with a low nitrogen fertilizer will strengthen the root system, and help fight winter damage caused by freezing nights.

Cutting the lawn properly is vital to a healthy lawn. St Augustine turf should be cut 2 ½ to 3 inches in height. (The higher the better). Cutting the turf too low has several disadvantages. Cutting to low or scalping the lawn creates stress in general. When the turf is stressed its immune system drops and the turf become more susceptible to insects, disease, and root damage. Also cutting the turf with a dull blade, or when it is wet adds further stress to the lawn and should be avoided when ever possible.

There are many things to be aware of when planting **new sod**. The first thing is what conditions are you putting it down under. There are species of St. Augustine for shade or sun. You should always tell the Sod Company which type you need. New sod needs daily watering until the roots begin to root in the soil. (When you can gently pull on the sod and it doesn't come off the ground.) The turf should not be mowed until the root system has ample time to completely establish itself. This is about 3 to 4 weeks.

Points to Remember

- A lawn program is usually successful under normal conditions. Extreme weather patterns can cause unpreventable problems and sometimes damage to lawns.
- Not all weeds are controllable. The weeds that are controllable are almost never completely eliminated. Weeds are spread through wind, water, birds, animals, humans, lawn mowers, etc... Weeds cannot be treated in the summer due to the heat. ***It should take about a year of weed applications to get weeds under control, in a lawn, which has an existing weed problem.***
- Florida Pest Management only guarantees the control of lawn destroying insects. Any other treatments for nuisance insects will incur an additional charge.

In general things to know in regards your lawn and the lawn care program.

Insects and Insecticides: General insecticides do not kill and prevent every type of insect, therefore, we target and guarantee to control only insect which can cause injury to the turf.

Chinch Bugs are usually active during warm weather. Treatments for Chinch Bugs are throughout the spring, summer, and fall months.

Mole Crickets are damaging mostly during there mating seasons. This are generally in April, May, and August.

Sod Web worms are active in the fall. August through October you may see dull white-to-gray moths in the lawns during this time. These are called Sod Web worm moths. We cannot control the moths from flying in the turf, but rather killing the worms the moth produce. (The worms are what do damage in the turf.)

Weeds and Herbicides: Florida Pest management, Inc. guarantees the control of most broadleaf weeds. We do not guarantee the control of any grassy weeds. The herbicides we use are "selective" meaning they only control certain types of weeds. (There are a couple of grassy weed herbicides out there; however; there is a significant risk of damaging most turf grasses including St. Augustine.) A successful treatment with herbicide is considered to be between 50% and 90% of weed reduction. Most weeds are suppressed rather than killed. That is why a continued treatment program is necessary, and a degree of regeneration can be expected.

The most common grassy weed in which we have no control for is **CRABGRASS**. The best way to control this type of weed is to pull it up and resod. Another way is to put a light dusting of baking soda over the weed.

Watering: An average lawn should be watered twice a week. The key is to water deep each time. No less than an average of 45 to 50 minutes each zone each time you water is usually sufficient to get a deep penetration into the soil. Shady lawns require much less water to maintain a healthy lawn. An average of once a week is usually sufficient when using a timer.