With spring just around the corner, it’s a great time to get prepared for the warmer weather. For some this means getting back to the gym or spring-cleaning the house; but here at Deans, it means making sure our lawns get back their rich, green color and preparing to do battle with the year’s first wave of pests. But with this preparation come a few seasonal adjustments to consider. So even if you don’t have our Lawn & Shrub Care program, check out a few of these tips so your lawn will quickly get back to a healthy summer green!

The Deep Green

When it comes to getting a green lawn, irrigation, along with mowing habits and fertilization/pest control, is one of the most important controllable factors; but it must be done correctly. The key to proper watering is to apply deeply and infrequently (two or three times weekly as temperatures rise); otherwise your lawn will begin spreading its roots only in the
Add Some Green to Your Scenery  
(continued from page 1)

Shallow, moist areas. By applying ¾ inch of water each time you irrigate, you will train root zones to grow deeper, thus helping your turf to remain green during droughts and withstand insect attacks and other stresses.

**Mowed in the Right Mode**

The two most important factors associated with mowing are cutting height and cutting frequency, and these play a more critical part in turf health than most people realize. This is because with each mowing, your grass experiences physiological stress—especially if too much of the plant leaf has been removed. Like shallow watering, excessive mowing causes weak, shallow root systems. *The Florida Lawn Handbook*, published by the University of Florida, offers the following recommendation:

Mow often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the blade height is removed per mowing. For example, if your St. Augustine grass lawn is mowed at a height of 4 inches, it should be mowed when it grows to a height of 6 inches. Stress to the grass caused by mowing can be minimized by removing only 1/3 of the leaf blade at each mowing. It is important to always leave as much leaf surface as possible so that photosynthesis can occur.

Because the optimal height to which you should cut your lawn depends on the type of grass, refer to the table found below (table indicates ideal height immediately after mowing). Mow correctly this spring, and watch your lawn get green, and stay green!

**Feed Your Greens**

Like all living, breathing organisms, your turf depends on a steady, healthy diet. But while some lawns sit atop nutrient-rich soil, most Florida lawns require liquid fertilizer applications to achieve their full green potential*. In fact, our preparation for spring begins each year at the beginning of winter with a cool-season blend of nutrients carefully formulated to promote deep root growth and a preemergent application to help inhibit the germination of new weeds. In addition to improving lawn color, these applications also ensure that your turf is better able to defend itself from the attack of various springtime pests.

Always remember that even with these steps, it’s unrealistic to expect that no weed or insect will ever again find its way into your lawn. We wish this were possible, but Mother Nature is simply too persistent. That’s why we also begin our herbicide spot treatments and insecticide applications in response to any weed and insect activity.

Here at Deans, we know that with the return of each singing songbird, there’s a mining mole cricket; and for every blooming bud there’s a wiry weed. But don’t worry, because for every pest on your property...there’s Deans!

*Deans does not provide fertilization services for Bahia grass.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turfgrass Species</th>
<th>Cut Height (inches)</th>
<th>Frequency (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahia</td>
<td>3.0 - 4.0”</td>
<td>7 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bermuda</td>
<td>0.5 - 1.5”</td>
<td>3 - 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centipede</td>
<td>1.5 - 2.0”</td>
<td>10 - 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Augustine</td>
<td>3.0 - 4.0”</td>
<td>5 - 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Augustine (Dwarf Varieties)</td>
<td>2.5 - 4.0”</td>
<td>5 - 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoysia</td>
<td>1.0 - 3.0”</td>
<td>10 - 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yes, they certainly do! People are often surprised to hear that the pest management industry uses K9s to detect termite infestations. But when you consider that K9s are trained as hunters, herders, search-and-rescue dogs, police partners, and contraband interceptors, it should be no surprise that those on the progressive edge of the pest control industry have adopted K9s as an important tool in the detection of termite activity. But how exactly do they work?

Because subterranean termites typically remain hidden from view for the majority of their lives, human inspection alone may at times prove ineffective. But because these termites emit a scented pheromone, dogs can be trained to utilize their incredible sense of smell (which is tens-of-thousands of times more sensitive than that of a human) to detect and alert at the site of infestation. In fact, they’re even trained to make a distinction between fresh pheromones from live activity and older, stale pheromones left behind from dead colonies—an important key to eliminating false alerts. While we humans are able to correctly only about

Beagles are often chosen for this task due to their reputable work ethic, and this is the breed of our two termite-detecting K9s, Scratch and Emily. Of course, these aren’t just any Beagles. Before beginning employment with Deans, Scratch and Emily underwent extensive training at J&K Canine Academy in North Florida. In addition, the dogs receive annual certification as to their effectiveness from the University of Florida to verify their continued accuracy. Such an effective inspection tool allows for early detection, which means quicker control and less potential for serious damage.

Canines are just one part of Deans’ industry-leading termite protection program, which includes a $1,000,000 Lifetime Warranty, subterranean (including Formosan) termite protection, and annual supplemental treatments. If you’re using another company that doesn’t utilize detection K9s, ask Deans about our conversion program and perhaps you’ll have an opportunity to watch these impressive dogs in action for yourself!
With warmer weather on the way, we thought it’d be a great time for a few quick reminders about your lawn and irrigation system. As always, if you have any questions, call (352) 787-5300 or visit DeansServices.com!

**Adjust Your Watering Frequency**
This time each year, local water restrictions are adjusted to allow for more frequent watering. For more details, see our watering schedule included in this issue.

**Rely on Your Solar Sync**
A SolarSync is an irrigation sensor (available on most models) used to detect conditions such as sun intensity, temperature, and rainfall. It then uses this information to adjust your irrigation schedules accordingly and reduce water waste. To prevent waste and pest problems associated with over-watering, simply set your system to water three times a week, and let your SolarSync automatically reduce watering as needed.

**Check Your Irrigation Patterns**
For those without our Irrigation Maintenance program, take a moment to run through each of your irrigation zones individually to ensure that no heads are clogged or obstructed by landscaping. Adjust any misaligned spray heads to ensure that all turf is being covered within each zone.

*Recommendations made by Deans are based upon what is required to keep your lawn at an optimal health level and do not consider factors such as local watering restrictions or utility charges. Adherence to such restrictions may affect turf appearance.*

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### Recommended Watering Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Run-Time (PGP)</th>
<th>Run-Time (MP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above 85°</td>
<td>2 or 3 times/week</td>
<td>3/4 inch</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>80 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-85°</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>70 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-75°</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>70 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 46°</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Rotors and spray-head output may vary, affecting required run-times. Suggestions are approximate.
- Ornamentals require approximately 20 minutes, twice per week.
- New landscaping requires daily watering for the first 30 days following installation.
- Local watering restrictions may apply.

For additional information, call (352) 787-5300 or 1-877-588-4948
Visit us online at www.DeansServices.com