Is Your Lawn Winterized?

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While Florida may not have the brutal winters of our northern neighbors, our grass may still need a little more attention as the cool season approaches. This is because, like so many Floridians, warm-season grass simply isn’t used to the bitter cold.

Most grasses of the south, such as Zoysia and St. Augustine, will sustain some discoloration at the onset of cooler temperatures. Though not as attractive as their usual shade of green, this is a natural defense against the cold and occurs in anticipation of a recovery in spring. However, in some cases, when the freeze is too severe, or when proper precautions haven’t been taken to prepare, or “winterize”, the lawn, low temperatures can lead to lasting damage. Consider the following tips so you can look forward to a green, healthy lawn come springtime.

Fertilize Appropriately
Fertilization is important for a plush and healthy lawn, but the wrong mix at the wrong time could lead to more harm than good. This is because ill-timed fertilization efforts (especially applications rich in Nitrogen) lead to new growth— which is particularly susceptible to low temperatures. Deans’ lawn fertilization program is tailored to the environmental conditions in your area so that your lawn gets a balanced delivery all year-round.

Water Properly
Over-watering can increase the damage caused by a freeze or severe frost, but not watering at all can present problems as well. Your irrigation schedule should be adjusted in response to rainfall and temperature, but until the temperature reaches 45°, water should still be applied to keep your lawn from drying up. Refer to the ‘Recommended Watering Schedule’ on the next page to help determine when and how much to water during cool months.

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Remember, Deans’ AquaCheck irrigation maintenance program provides year-round monitoring to ensure that your system is applying just the right amount of water at just the right time.

Reduce Shade

Because shade prevents the sun from warming the soil, grass in these areas stays colder longer. Extreme shade also slows the turf’s production of carbohydrates which are needed to tolerate cold. Reduce this risk by trimming trees or bushes in excessively shady areas.

Freeze/Frost Prep

Even with all the aforementioned preparations, a frost or hard freeze can still damage your turf. In the event of a frost (that is, when it’s just cold enough for ice crystals to form on the surface of your lawn…but not quite cold enough to freeze) be sure to run your irrigation immediately to rinse away this layer of frost and prevent damage to the grass blade. About 5 minutes per zone should suffice.

If a freeze occurs, your action is simple: Don’t water. Watering in freezing conditions will only intensify any damage to your grass. By having properly prepared your grass for this weather, your turf should shed any dead tissue and rebound nicely in the spring.

Generally, January and February are the coldest months here in central Florida, however, cold fronts have been known to come in as late as April, so keep these tips in mind and keep an eye on the forecast. As always, if you have any questions about your lawn or would like more information on our fertilization program, call us at (352) 787-5300.

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>Do Not Water</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
When it comes to bothersome insects, we may seem to have it bad here in Florida, but our fire ants, lovebugs, and mosquitoes are but a trifling annoyance when compared to the pest currently plaguing parts of Northern China and Japan.

_Vespa Mandalina_—aka, the Japanese Giant Hornet, has been attacking citizens in the area with increased regularity due to the expansion of urbanized areas into the creatures’ natural nesting areas. But unlike the wasps and bees with whom we’ve grown accustomed, these hornets leave little room for social harmony.

These aptly named hornets grow up to 2” in length (yep, the one pictured is actual size!) and wield a ¼” stinger; and with a flight speed of 25 mph, they’ll readily pursue and attack any humans they perceive as a threat. Also, unlike bees, which can sting only once, these winged warmongers inflict multiple excruciating stings—the venom of which results in bullet-hole-sized wounds.

Here in the states we’re duly concerned with killer bees, but this wicked wasp eats bees like that for breakfast—literally. At about five times the size of a typical Africanized honeybee, the giant hornets’ thick armor-like exoskeleton protects them from the defensive bee stings as they enter hives and use their powerful mouthparts to decapitate the bees inside and feed them to their young.

According to Chinese state press, 1,600 victims were hospitalized with serious injuries last year, and in Japan, between 30 and 40 people die each year from Giant Hornet attacks. This makes the Japanese giant hornet the most lethal animal in Japan—killing more than twice as many humans as bears and venomous snakes combined!

*$100 off a scheduled service. See back for details.*
Here at Deans, we’re always looking for ways to strengthen the relationship we share with our customers. That’s why we’re excited to announce that we’re now on Facebook!

Those familiar with the social media site know that in addition to providing a great way to interact with distant friends and family, Facebook also allows customers to learn more about the companies with whom they do business, and take advantage of exclusive discounts, promotions, and contests. We’ll also be sharing links to relevant videos and articles, offering online pest identification, and providing tips for getting the most out of your service, including real-time freeze and drought alerts to help minimize seasonal turf damage. You’ll also get a chance to learn more about your area technician and share your thoughts on our service.

We invite you to drop by and click on our Like button so you can join in too, and to show our appreciation, all active customers that Like our page and comment on our Facebook Wall before the end of February 2014 will automatically be entered into a drawing for a chance to win $100.00 off their next pest control application! If you’re unsure how to Like something, don’t worry, it’s easy!

It’s that simple! On March 5th, we’ll select an active customer at random, then announce the winner after contacting him or her by phone. To keep our lines free for customers, we kindly ask that no inquiries be made by phone. Just remember, we won’t know if you clicked Like unless you comment as well, so to ensure that you’ve been entered into the drawing, drop us a line!

Of course, we want this new avenue to be useful to you too, so if you have any suggestions feel free to direct message us on Facebook or email us through DeansServices.com. Either way, come join our online community and stay tuned for more information and more opportunities to win!

Current customers only. One entry per customer. $100 credit will be applied toward customer account, regardless of single service price. Discounts and credits non-refundable nor to be exchanged for cash. Prizes left unclaimed beyond 48 hours will be awarded to next eligible participant.