



# green SIDE UP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL GREENERY LANDSCAPING  
Serving Glynn, Camden, Nassau, McIntosh, Wayne, Liberty, Bryan & Chatham Counties | MARCH 2023



## Spring Green Up Problems in Warm Season Turf

**This year Spring sprung very early.** The birds are singing, fragrant flowers are blooming and grass is in transition to becoming lush and green. One of the most common questions asked of a Landscape Professional in this area is “Well it’s spring so why isn’t the grass greening up?” There are several answers to this question. We have compiled a list of the most common problems we see in warm season turf and the Spring “green up” process.

### Mowing

This is one of the most common problems with turf green up. Mowing in general is stressful for turf so when you add mowing to fragile new growth, this can be a cause of turf not turning green. The main culprit with mowing and green turf is mowing at the correct height. All types of turf react differently to mowing heights. For example, St. Augustine turf cannot tolerate being scalped like Bermuda. Regardless of the type of turf species, improper heights will contribute to delayed green up. Dull blades and unmaintained equipment also put stress on grass coming out of dormancy.

## Properties of the Month: MARCH

### Grove Point Plantation *Savannah*



### Kristy English *Support Services*



### Queen & Grant *Golden Isles*



### Timber Creek *South*



*Each property is selected by the Branch Manager according to the crew's monthly Quality Control report.*

## Fertilization

The fertilizer used before the grass went into dormancy is extremely important. The winter fertilizer gives turf nutrients to spring out of dormancy strong. Applying incorrect amounts and applying at the wrong time can affect the green up in your turf.



## Thatch

As turf ages, thatch can become a problem resulting in delayed green-up. One of the major causes of thatch build up is turf being continuously mowed above the recommended height. Thatch build up slows the ability of nutrient up take which will result in delayed green-up in spring. The build-up of the thatch layer also makes the turf more susceptible to diseases.

## Water

Proper watering plays a vital role in the overall health of the turf grass. Either too much water or too little could result in problems contributing to the green-up. Water management is an important tactic to greening up turf in the spring.

## Diseases

Diseases can cause turf to not green-up in the spring. Rhizoctonia, also called large patch, is the most common this time of year. Rhizoctonia is most active when night temperatures are between 50 and 60 degrees. Other fungal issues are caused by excessive quick release nitrogen applications. These applications will provide turf with a beautiful green color but will open the door to fungal diseases like brown patch, Pythium blight, and leaf spot.

## Temperatures

Depending on how quickly turf grass will come out of dormancy heavily depends on the soil temperature. Grass will not green up until the magic temperature for your grass species is reached. Soil temperatures differ on the location of the property.

There are many concerns affecting how turf will green-up in the spring. Some of these concerns are under our control while others are not. Experience, knowledge, and patience are needed to decipher the cause and turn turf around. Talk with your landscape professional, he/she will have turf and water management systems to aid in understanding the cause and getting your turf headed in the right direction.



## Team Members of the Month: MARCH

**Larry Malphurs**  
South



**Joshua Crawford**  
Support Services



**Cody Taylor**  
Golden Isles



**Corey Floyd**  
Savannah



*These team members display the company core values (Safety, Quality, Leadership, Relationships) in all that they do while working, have excellent attendance, and are constantly trying to improve themselves.*

## On-the-Spot Answers to an Ugly Spring Disease

**It's not the kind of thing anyone wants to spot –circular areas of dead, straw-colored grass from 6 inches to several feet wide.** Spring Dead Spot is a disease that most often hits turf several years old—and Bermudagrass is this fungus' favorite food.

**Spring Dead Spot** actually gets started much earlier than spring. It attacks roots in the fall, but we don't see the damage until the following season. Like most diseases, prevention is the best cure, and there are a few cultural practices that can help a lot in keeping disease away.

- The first step is to keep turf healthy with carefully planned watering, mowing and fertilizing schedules.
- Avoid over-fertilization in the late summer, as this can encourage the fall stage of the disease development.
- Make sure the turf is dethatched, power-raked or aerated to keep the thatch layer broken up and to improve air movement.

If you suspect your lawn has Spring Dead Spot or any other diseases, feel free to give us a call right away.



## Winning the Fight With Fungus

**Spring is a prime time for lawn diseases to kick into destructive action.** Fungus spores are constantly in the air, water and soil all around us, and lawns that aren't in top shape can quickly fall victim to them.



Here are a few ways we can fight fungus together this season:

- Watch the watering. Fungus spores love water, so water less often, deeply, and at times of day that allow the turf to dry quickly after watering. **Talk to your Client Relations Leader about Coastal Greenery's water management smart link system!**
- Fertilize on schedule. Timely applications through the season keep grass growing steadily without unhealthy bursts of growth that attract disease.
- Mow with a sharp blade. A dull mower blade increases the chance of disease by 20% because it shreds grass blades, leaving an "open wound" for spores to enter.

Another year-round practice is aerating, which will help keep grass strong by breaking up thatch and encouraging deep rooting. Heavy thatch layers are a natural "breeding" ground for many kinds of fungus.



## The perfect lawn?

The guaranteed perfect lawn may never arrive, but each year brings new tools and materials to get us a little closer. Our goal is to provide the best possible lawn for your investment. We'll continue to deliver the most up-to-date service and, with your help, the kind of results that are sure to please.



## We're here for *you.*

**Helping your property look great is what we do, but making sure you're satisfied is what keeps us going.** We've learned that when we focus on complete customer satisfaction, all the rest falls in line.

**We're here for you** - to follow up on work we've done for you, to answer questions or to discuss further improvements to your outside spaces.

**We count on the good name we've built with our customers to get new business.** If you have a friend, neighbor or co-worker in need of landscape services, we'd appreciate you recommending us. We'd like to meet them and work with them to beautify their landscapes, too.

**Of course, it's always a great pleasure to get a call from a current customer about a new project.** Please call us anytime. We'd love to hear from you.



Have a question or concern? We're here to help.

Contact the **COASTAL GREENERY** Team

**(912) 261-8171 | COASTALGREENERY.COM**    