

Ask The Plant Groom™ by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom™

QA1072

I have grubs and my St. Augustine grass is dying fast. I tried something commercial and it didn't help. What do you recommend? I heard Tide would kill them. Please help because I had a really thick and pretty yard. Thanks. - K. Y.

Grub damage would not be showing up in our lawns this time of year. If your lawn damage is from grubs it would have been dead in the affected areas and no green-up in the spring. Check with your local Texas Cooperative Extension County Agent regarding the specific time to apply a grub control aid for the 2006 season. Remember; always apply any gardening aid according to label directions.

Tide and other detergents are great for washing clothes.

This time of year with our heat and no rain St. Augustine lawns may be rapidly impacted due to lack of sufficient soil moisture. Be sure to irrigate as needed to maintain soil moisture required for healthy growth. Water deeply and thoroughly when needed. Do not irrigate on a preset schedule, lightly and frequently.

Mow frequently and apply fertilizer as recommended according to a soil test.

In hot dry conditions check for possible chinch bug damage in your lawn. Brown to dead areas may indicate this possibility.

We planted a Chinese pistachio tree 14 years ago and it did well until about 2 years ago when it started having only sparse branching with leaves only on and near the tips thus providing only minimal shade. It has a lot of small dead branches. I have noticed about half dozen or so large galls on its trunk in various places, which I suspect may be causing the problem. Can you tell me what caused the galls and how to treat the problem? - V. M.

It may require a Certified Consulting Arborist to review your tree on site to provide an accurate recommendation regarding your tree. These puppies are top quality shade trees and provide great fall colors. We have two in our home landscape.

Here's my suggestions:

- Contact a Certified Consulting Arborist for an on site consultation.
- Remove all dead wood.
- Fertilize in the drip line with (N) nitrogen
- Water deeply and thoroughly in the drip line

Galls are 99.9% non harmful to trees. Insects, injury or virus may cause them.

How do I get rid of wisteria? It has invaded my yard from my neighbor's wooded, unoccupied, lot. It has climbed up the trees, killing several, and looks like a jungle. I tried Round-Up but it only knocked it down for a while. We have severed the large mother trunks but it just sprouts back. Help! - M. S.

This is a super plant when used properly in the landscape but can be a ... monster.

Wisteria is a broadleaf plant. Products labeled to control brush should control it. Remember, trees and shrubs are also broadleaf plants.

The decision to use this or any other weed control aid is yours. One technique is to physically remove all the above ground parts of this monster and when it resprouts treat the new growth with your selected product according to label directions. One tool to pinpoint applications on regrowth is a sponge paintbrush.

Dale's notes:

- Be sure to take some time and look at summer color that's doing well in our heat. Identify and add the same to your landscape if color is needed.
- Mulch all plantings 3-4" deep with your favorite organic mulch.
- Irrigate during early morning hours.
- Remove spent blooms on roses.
- Maintain a sharp blade on your mower.
- For live help M-F, 8:30am - 4pm call the Master Gardeners at 214-904-3053.

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