

Acadia Fall Landscaping and Lawn Care Tips/Advice

Army-worm Infestation

Army-worms have invaded the Upstate and have been spotted in Acadia. It is the worst infestation that Georgia and South Carolina have seen in 30 years. If left untreated, Army-worms will completely destroy a grass lawn in under 5 days, sometimes within hours. They feed on Fescue, less so Bermuda grasses, while unfortunately leaving the weeds alone. They do not like Zoysia, which tends to be more insect and heat resistant.

Here are some of the telltale signs of Army-worms:

- Clusters of birds forming on your lawn
- White moths on the lawn in the evening which lay the eggs for the caterpillars
- Lawn looks like its moving as caterpillars of various sizes feast
- Lawn turns completely brown

All homeowners are advised to immediately begin treatment of their lawns with liquid Sevin, whether you think you have Army-worms or not.

You can contact Clemson Extension for insecticide recommendations and details of how and when to treat the lawn. If you have a lawn service, please contact them to treat your lawn right away.

Fescue vs Bermuda and Zoysia

Acadians with Fescue lawns have been fighting an uphill battle. Fescue grass was once the recommended grass for the Greenville area. However, within the last 5 years, we have experienced a shift in our climate, resulting in hotter and dryer summers. Fescue has not been able to tolerate our hot/dry summer weather, unless it receives a lot of shade. During the dry hot months, we tend to overwater the Fescue, which develops a fungus. The weeds then take over because they love the irrigation. If you are one of the lucky ones with shade, then your Fescue will continue to thrive and you are the envy of Acadia. If you're ready to give up the Fescue battle, then we suggest you change over to Bermuda or Zoysia next spring. The fall is too cool for Bermuda and Zoysia to take root.

Those who have suffering Fescue lawns are advised to do the following this Fall:

Fall is the time to dig up weeds, aerate and overseed with Fescue and annual Winter Rye. This should be done within the next 2-3 weeks. You will have a beautiful green lawn throughout the fall and winter.

Next spring, consider a change-over to Bermuda or Zoysia. You can over-seed with Bermuda, especially if it has already invaded your Fescue. Over-seeding is not recommended for Zoysia. It must be planted from sod. Zeon Zoysia is an especially good choice, as it is heat, disease and insect resistant.

Bermuda and Zoysia lawns will turn brown in the winter. Once you have an established Bermuda or Zoysia lawn, you can over seed in the fall with an annual winter rye to keep your yard green year-round.

Irrigation Systems and Watering

Now is the time to check your irrigation system. Check for any damaged heads and replace if necessary. Also make adjustments to heads, to assure water is directed where you want it to go and is evenly dispersed. Please make sure that you are not watering the streets, only your lawn and planting beds. Fix it now, save water and reduce your water bill.

We water lawns too often. Irrigate from October to February only 2 times per week, and in Spring & Summer no more than 3 times/week. Spot water in extra dry periods.

It is important for the overall look of the community, and is required by our CCRs, that every homeowner maintain their landscaping. You are urged to address this now, and save the CCR committee the task of enforcement. Please be caring of your yard, and thoughtful of your neighbors. This applies also to all the dog owners who have allowed their pets to use neighbors' yards and common areas as bathrooms. Please be more respectful.

Thank you.

--- Acadia Landscape Committee & Acadia Development Co. ---