


THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS
a monthly webinar series brought to you by the
GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER
State Program Office

Fall Turf Update
Dr. Clint Waltz
October 8, 2020

www.gamastergardener.org

Thoughtful Thursdays continue in 2020

Second Thursday of each month, February - November
2-2:30 pm
Free
Archives posted in MGLOG



THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS FOR GA MGEVS
Continuing Education opportunities in 2020

what is it? a monthly webinar series via online Zoom meetings brought to you by the Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer State Program Office. Recordings available through MGLOG.

what will you learn about? Topics of discussion include: soils, nutrient plants, container gardening, USA Turf Care, irrigation, turf, lawns and driveways and more.

mark your calendars

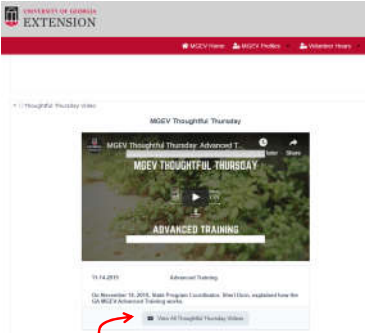
FEBRUARY 13 2:00 - 2:30 PM	MARCH 12 2:00 - 2:30 PM	MAY 14 2:00 - 2:30 PM
JUNE 18 2:00 - 2:30 PM	JULY 9 2:00 - 2:30 PM	AUGUST 13 2:00 - 2:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 10 2:00 - 2:30 PM	OCTOBER 8 2:00 - 2:30 PM	NOVEMBER 12 2:00 - 2:30 PM

LEARN SERVE GROW

www.gamastergardener.org

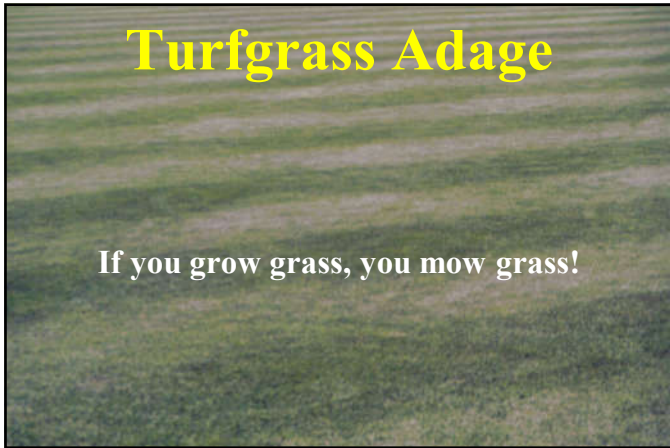
Don't miss Thoughtful Thursdays!!

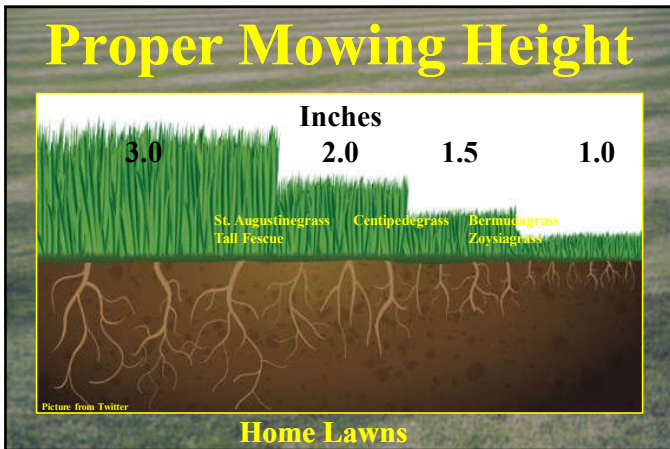
- Presentations are recorded
- Access the recording links from MGLOG



Look! Links to ALL of our archives!

www.gamastergardener.org





BMPs of Fertility

4Rs of Nutrient Stewardship

- ★ Right time
 - ✓ Grass actively growing
- ★ Right place
 - ✓ Soil or foliar
- ★ Right rate
 - ✓ Fertility needs of the plant
- ★ Right source
 - ✓ Match fertilizer type to grass needs – soil test

4R NUTRIENT STEWARDSHIP BEGINS WITH "S"

SOIL TESTING!

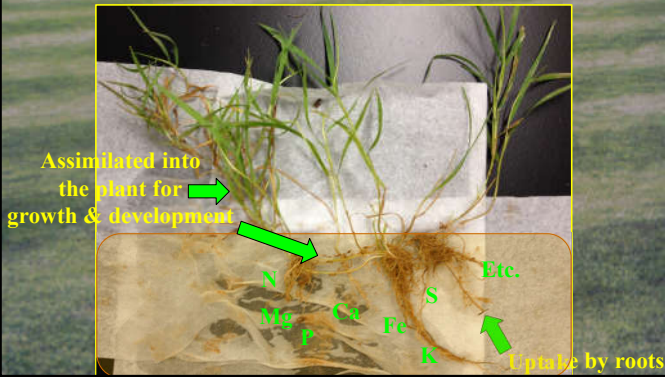
AGVISE LABORATORIES

Why do we fertilize turf?

Basic Reasons

- ★ Color
 - ✓ We are in a quality business – it must look good
- ★ Growth & Recovery
 - ✓ Divots, wear and tear, surface interaction (play)
 - ✓ Yields are not important
- ★ Replace nutrients as they become unavailable to the plant

Nutrients in Turf



Is now a good time to fertilize?

Nitrogen

- ✓ Don't be misled by advertising
 - ⊗ or a Scottish burr
- ✓ Hey Scott, when should I "feed" my warm-season lawn?
- ✓ When should I "feed" my cool-season lawn?



Warm-season Grasses: No Winterizer!

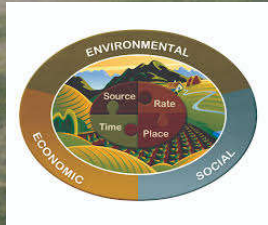
- ★ Not for warm-season species
- ✓ Don't be misled by advertising
- ✓ No nitrogen after 1st September
 - ❖ Not even low rates
 - ❖ 0.6 to 0.8 lb N / 1000 ft²
- ✓ Stimulate grass at wrong time
- ✓ Roots may need P & K, not N
- ✓ More susceptible to pests



Annual Nitrogen Needs

Warm-season

- ★ Bermudagrass
 - ✓ 2 to 5 lbs / 1000 ft²
 - ✓ May to August
 - ✓ 1 lb / 1000 ft² apps.
 - ✓ Consider slow release in mix
- ★ Centipedegrass
 - ✓ 1 to 2 lbs / 1000 ft²
 - ✓ 3 – 1/3 lb / 1000 ft² apps. (May, mid-June, & August)



Annual Nitrogen Needs

Warm-season

- ★ Seashore paspalum
 - ✓ 2 to 3 lbs / 1000 ft²
- ★ St. Augustinegrass
 - ✓ 2 to 5 lbs / 1000 ft²
 - ✓ May to August
- ★ Zoysiagrass
 - ✓ 2 to 3 lbs / 1000 ft²
 - ✓ May to August



Tall Fescue

Fertility

- ★ **Timing – Fall & Spring**
- ★ **Amount – 4.0 lbs N / 1000 ft² / year**
 - ✓ 1.0 lb N / 1000 ft² per application
 - Sep. or Oct. & Nov. – 2.0 lbs N / 1000 ft² for the fall
 - Mid-Feb. & April – 2.0 lbs N / 1000 ft² for the spring
- ★ **Analysis**
 - ✓ N, P, & K – control release N is good
 - ✓ Examples – 16-4-8, 32-3-8, or similar

Fertilization

Potassium (K₂O)


- ★ 83%K
- ★ “Health” element
- ★ Promotes rooting
- ★ Stress preconditioning
- ★ Prior to establishment
 - ✓ Till into the soil
- ★ N:K – 2:1, 1:1, or 1:2
 - ✓ 1:2 for last fertilizer application of the season



pH – Lime

Characteristics


- ★ Raise soil pH
- ★ Slowly soluble
- ★ Pelletized & powdered
- ★ Calcitic
 - ✓ Calcium carbonate (CaCO₃)
- ★ Dolomitic
 - ✓ Calcium-magnesium carbonate (CaMg(CO₃)₂)



pH – Lime

Soil Tests

- ★ Two test
 - ✓ pH
 - ? Need for lime
 - ✓ Lime buffer capacity
 - ? How much
- ★ Timing
 - ✓ Ideal – mid- to late fall
 - ✓ Anytime of the year



Turfgrass Adage

Water deep and infrequent!

How Much to Irrigate?

Wet 4- to 8-inch Depth

- ★ Regardless of turf species
- ★ Growing season
 - ✓ Warm-season – May to September
 - ✓ Cool-season – throughout the year
- ★ Clay soils
 - ✓ 1 to 1½ inches / week
- ★ Sandy soils
 - ✓ ½ inch, 3 times a week



Core Aerification

Common Questions

- ★ Solid or Hollow?
 - ✓ Hollow increased macropores
 - ✓ 3 to 4 inches deep
 - ✓ ½-inch diameter
- ★ When?
 - ✓ Late April to mid-May
- ★ Duration?
 - ✓ Measurable – 3 weeks



Establishment

Dormant Sod

- ★ Root zone preparation
 - ✓ Tilled, limed, fertility, etc.
- ★ Plant quickly
 - ✓ 24 to 48 hours after harvest
 - ✓ Radiant heat of soil
- ★ Watering
 - ✓ Light – wet upper 1 to 2 inches
 - ✓ Winter & spring desiccation



Weed Control

Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua*)

- ★ Germination
 - ✓ Early fall
 - ✓ Soil – 60° to 70° F
 - ✓ Throughout winter
 - ✓ Spring
 - ✓ Intermittent hydration
 - ✓ > 100 seed / plant in 8 weeks
 - ✓ Seed viable up to 6 years in soil
 - ✓ If overseed – few selective control options



Leaf Spot Diseases

Warm-season Grasses

- ★ Environmental influences – slowed grass growth
 - ✓ Cooling temperatures & less daylight
- ★ Rapid spread
- ★ Leaf blades
 - ✓ Spots
 - ✓ Turn brown & wither
- ★ Irrigation & fertility



Brown Patch & Large Patch

Epidemiology – *Rhizoctonia* sp.

- ★ Prolonged Humidity
- ★ 59° – 90° F (*R. cerealis* – *R. zeae*)
- ★ Dense turfs
- ★ Highly fertilized
- ★ Highly irrigated



Identification and Control of
Rhizoctonia Large Patch
in Georgia

Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Georgia, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Faculty of Plant Pathology and Entomology
Blue Green Systems of Plant Pathology, GA01000

UGA
extension

UGA Circular 1088

Zoysiagrass - Diseases

Large Patch (*Rhizoctonia* sp.)



Tall Fescue

Disease Control

- ★ **Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia* sp.)**
 - ✓ Symptoms – patches
 - ✓ Epidemiology
 - ☞ Humidity
 - ☞ 59° to 90 ° F
 - ✓ Fall – preventative
 - ☞ Multiple applications likely
 - ✓ Summer
 - ☞ Do the best you can do! ▶



Turf-type Tall Fescue

General Characteristics

- ★ Finer-textured
- ★ Denser stands
- ★ Genetically darker green color
- ★ Over 150 cultivars
 - ✓ www.NTEP.org



Tall Fescue

Establishment Methods


- ★ **Sodding**
 - ✓ Timing
 - ☞ Sept. to April
 - ☞ Fall better than spring
 - ✓ Water – keep moist
 - ✓ Fertilizer – after rooted
 - ✓ Fungicide – after sodded
 - ☞ Brown Patch
 - ☞ 28 day products ▶



Tall Fescue

Establishment Methods

- ★ Seeding
 - ✓ Timing – soil temps. dictate germ.
 - ☞ Fall – Sept. to Nov.
 - ☞ Spring – mid-Feb. to April
 - ✓ Rate – 5.0 to 6.0 lbs. seed / 1000 ft²
 - ✓ Water – keep moist
 - ✓ Mulch – lightly straw (e.g. pine straw)
 - ☞ Holds soil & moisture



Tall Fescue

Cultivars

- ★ Improved breeding
 - ✓ Tolerances – heat, drought, disease, etc.
- ★ Rhizomatous tall fescue
 - ✓ Rhizomes – occasional & short
 - ✓ Grande II & Labyrinth
 - ☞ Good to acceptable
 - ? Soil strength



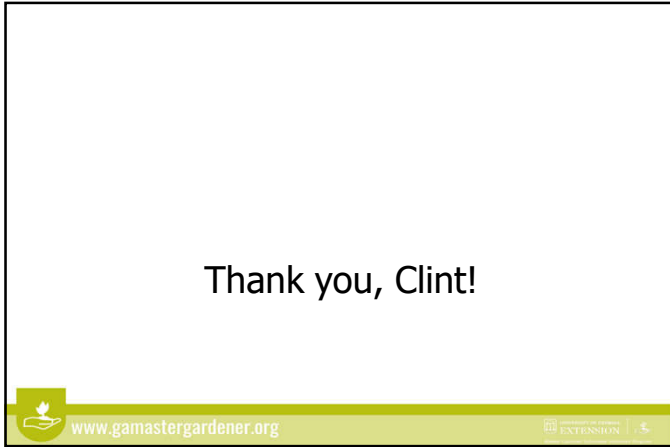
Interseeding

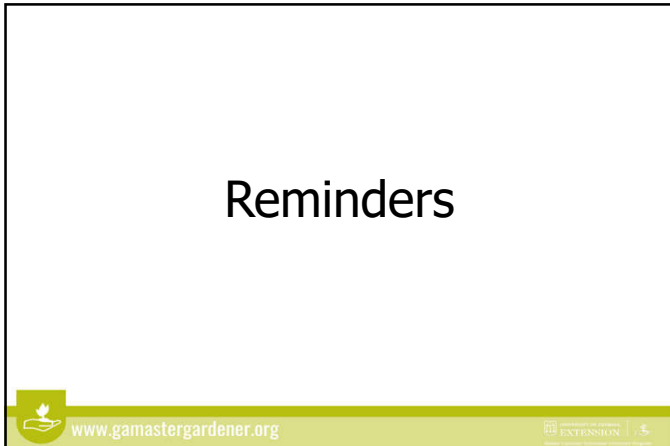
Aerification & "Overseeding"

- ★ Fall Practice
 - ✓ Sold by landscape companies
- ★ Benefits
 - ✓ Opens soil for O₂ exchange
 - ✓ Prepare seedbed for seeding
- ★ Hollow Tines
 - ✓ 3 to 4 inches deep
 - ✓ ½-inch diameter











Be a part of the strategic planning project for the Georgia MGEV Program!

OPTION 1: Participate in a survey:
<https://tinyurl.com/StratPlanMGEV>

OPTION 2: Participate in a live discussion via zoom on 10/27 from 10 am – 12 pm or 11/4 from 2-4 pm.
Register here:
<https://tinyurl.com/stratplanMGEVregistration>

Fall Dates

- November 6, 2020 – Regional Leadership Conference 3 of 3, Communicating for Community
 - Registration information posted to Trellis on 9/28
- November 13-14, 2020 – GMGA Annual Conference, virtual format!
(<https://www.georgiamastergardeners.org/annual-conference>)

Next THOUGHTFUL THURSDAYS

FOR MGEVs AT 2 PM
November 12, 2020 – Keri Hobbs

(no December or January session)

Thank you for your time today!
