



Insecticide and Fungicide Applications for South Florida St. Augustinegrass Lawns

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The recommendations below are for St. Augustinegrass including 'Floritam.' It is not for Bahia or Zoysia grasses. If none of the insects or disease problems are affecting a lawn, there is no need for preventive treatments. Preventive pesticide spraying is for lawns with proven and consistent problems.

Insecticides

The insecticide application schedules are not intended for routine lawn maintenance. Insecticides should only be used when there is confirmed and unacceptable insect damage. The indiscriminate use of insecticides can lead to a pesticide treadmill where the insects become resistant to the pesticide. For example, chinch bug populations have developed resistance to every major chemical class that has been used against them and host plant resistances has been overcome. An integrated pest management program or resistance management program must be implemented to keep chinch bug populations under satisfactory control and keep St. Augustinegrass as a viable lawn turfgrass in Florida. In South Florida curative applications may be necessary as many insects are active year round. Where there has been a history of an identified lawn insect pest, preventive applications may be warranted.

Insect	March	April	May
Chinch Bug	Preventive	_____	_____
Masked Chafer Grub*	_____	Preventive	_____
May/June Beetle	_____	_____	Preventive
Sugarcane Grub	_____	_____	Preventive

*Watch for adult activity around lights at night to determine egg laying occurrence and optimal pesticide timing.

Lawn Caterpillar	March	April	October
Armyworm	Preventive	_____	_____
Cutworm	Preventive	_____	_____
Fall Armyworm	_____	_____	Preventive
Looper	Preventive	_____	_____
Tropical Sod Webworm	_____	Preventive	_____

Insect Management in your Florida Lawn: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh034>
 Insect Pest Management on Turfgrass: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig001>
 Southern Chinch bug fact sheet: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh036>
 Sugarcane Grub: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in593>

Fungicides

Areas of St. Augustinegrass that are under cultural and environmental stresses are more susceptible to disease development. Homeowners are generally discouraged from using fungicide products to manage diseases of the lawn and landscape for the following reasons:

- Fungicide products only help manage some plant diseases, not all.
- Selection of appropriate products depends on knowing what disease is being managed—and that is difficult to do based on visual appearance alone.
- Timing applications is tricky—in many cases the window of time, when best performance is likely, is narrow and recognizing that window requires close observation of the plant and environment. In addition, for some diseases, once symptoms have developed there is no available curative treatment and fungicide applications will help only with preventing spread to other areas.
- Measuring, diluting, and applying products effectively and safely requires attention to detail, some specialized skills, and equipment.

Disease	April	June	October
Brown Patch	_____	_____	Preventive
Cercospora Leaf Spot	Preventive	_____	_____
Gray Leaf Spot	Preventive	_____	_____
Rust	_____	_____	Preventive
Take-All Root Rot	_____	Preventive	_____

Brown Patch: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh044>

Cercospora Leaf Spot: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh082>

Fungicides for Lawn and Landscape Disease Management: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp154>

Fungicide Survey for Lee County: <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/Fungicide%20List%202008.pdf>

Gray Leaf Spot: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh047>

Key for Identification of Landscape Turfgrass Diseases: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh064>

Rust: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh051>

Take-All Root Rot: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh079>

This fact sheet was reviewed by Dr. Eileen Buss, Entomology and Nematology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville; Dr. Monica Elliott, Plant Pathology, Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Ft. Lauderdale

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