

Recommended General Lawn Care Practices

WATER only when the grass turns grayish, indicating wilt. The water thoroughly. Measure amount of water applied with a rain gauge (or short tin cans) within the sprinkler pattern. Apply $\frac{1}{2}$ inch before turning off the water.

MOW regularly, at least every 10 days. Keep the mower blade very sharp so it won't tear the ends of the grass blades. Now centipede no lower than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, St Augustine no lower than 3-4 inches, and Bahia at 3-4 inches. The mowing height of Zoysia depends on the type of Zoysia. Mow grasses higher in shaded areas.

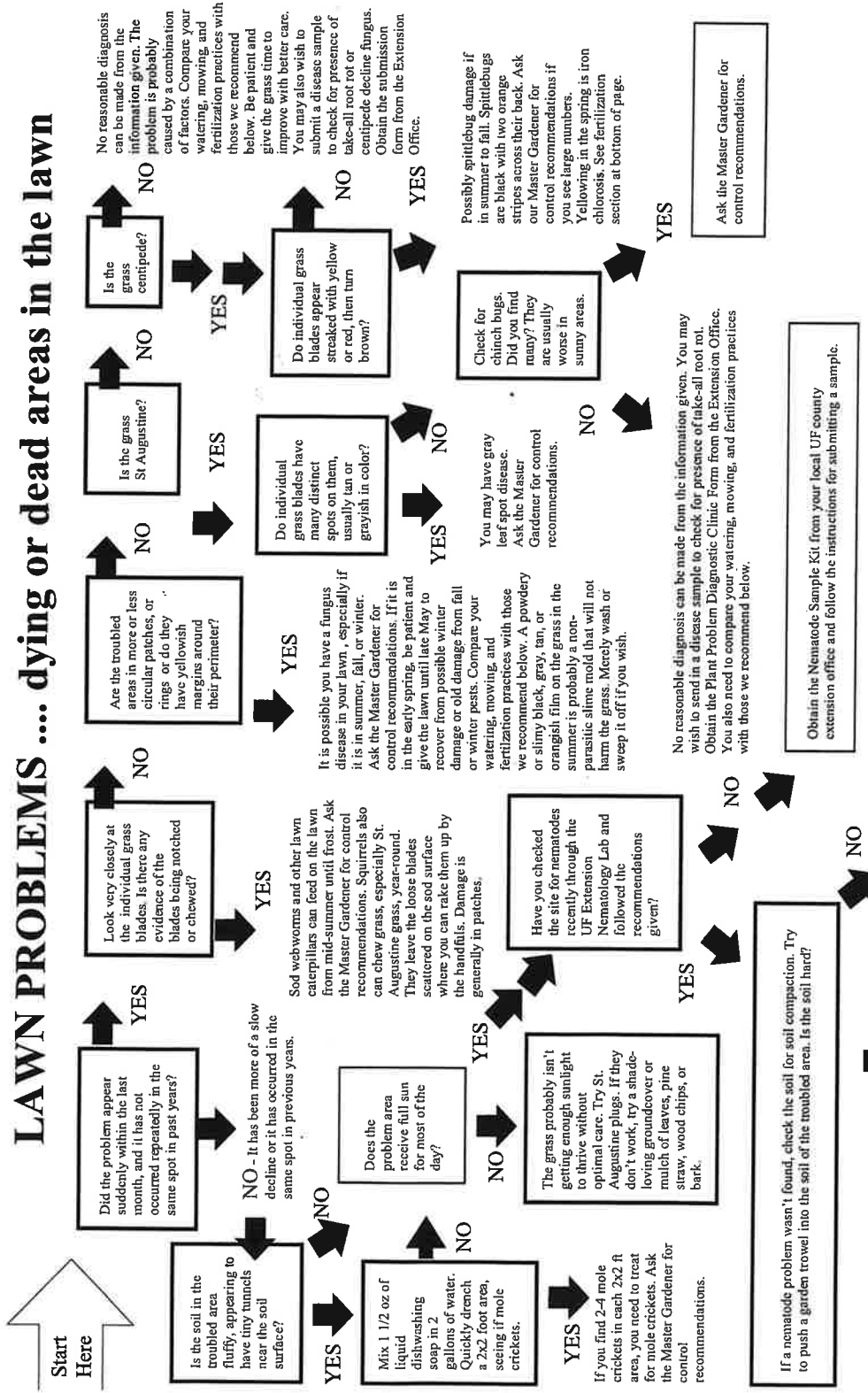
FERTILIZE moderately. Centipede, especially does not like being over-fertilized. One application in April and sometimes a second in August is all that is probably needed.

St Augustine and other grasses may have two or more applications from April through early September. Fertilize less if you want lower maintenance.

A 15-0-15 or 15-5-15 fertilizer is recommended for use. A soil test mailing kit can be obtained through our UF/IFAS County Extension Office to determine which of these is best for your site. Make sure half of the nitrogen (7.5% IN A 15-0-15) is slow-release or water-insoluble nitrogen. Only apply 6 pounds of the fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of lawn area. On Centipede, even consider reducing the rate to 3 to 4 pounds of the fertilizer per 1000 square feet in the spring and making a second application at the same rate in August. Ferrous sulfate (2 oa. In 3-5 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet) or a chelated iron source at labeled rates can be used to reduce yellowing without stimulating excessive grass growth. Never lime unless a soil test indicates the need to do so. Water lawn after fertilizing and avoid fertilizing before a rain fall. Fertilizer needs to be absorbed by the lawn and a substantial rain may result in runoff of the fertilizer.

WEED CONTROL products may harm your lawn and other landscape plants under certain conditions and/or if applied incorrectly. Concentrate more on growing healthy grass than on killing weeds and you'll have fewer weeds. Weeds are primarily opportunists that take hold when the grass isn't growing well. Be sure to follow label directions and note any temperature restrictions or time of year before applying any chemicals.

LAWN PROBLEMS dying or dead areas in the lawn



No reasonable diagnosis can be made from the information given. The problem is probably caused by a combination of factors. Compare your watering, mowing, and fertilization practices with those we recommend below. Be patient and give the grass time to improve with better care. You may also wish to submit a disease sample to check for presence of centipede decline fungus. Obtain the submission form from the Extension Office.

Soil Compaction can limit grass growth. Follow all the practices recommended below and see if the grass improves.

Compare your watering, mowing, and fertilization practices with those we recommend below. Vague lawn problems are usually the result of a combination of factors. You may also wish to submit a disease sample to check for presence of take-all root rot or centipede decline fungus. Obtain the submission form from the Extension Office.