

Rutherford County

FROM THE GROUND UP



July 30, 2024

Lawncare Academy and Grubworms

The hot dry spell that persisted for the bulk of June and July has stressed many home lawns in Rutherford County. We've learned to expect cool season turfgrasses such as tall fescue to struggle during our typical summer season, but even warm season turfgrasses such as bermudagrass and Zoysia grass growing on relatively shallow soils without the benefit of irrigation have exhibited symptoms of drought stress this summer. If you're contemplating taking steps to improve your damaged lawn but aren't exactly sure what to do, I recommend enrolling in the upcoming UT/TSU Extension Grass Masters Lawncare Academy.



Mitchell Mote,
Extension Agent III

The Grass Masters Lawncare Academy is free and open to anyone interested. The course will be held on four consecutive Thursday nights from 6 – 8 p.m. beginning on August 15 and concluding on September 5. It will be held in the Lane Agri-Park office complex auditorium located at 315 John R. Blvd in Murfreesboro. Participants will learn about the characteristics and growth habits of both warm and cool season turfgrasses, methods of establishment, renovation, primary and secondary maintenance practices (fertilizing, mowing, aeration etc.), spreader calibration, turf weed science, sprayer calibration, and turf insect and disease management. Call the Extension office at 615-898-7710 from 8-430 Mon – Fri to register.

On a different note, homeowners often apply insecticides to the soil in their lawns and landscapes for the purpose of killing white grubs (locally known as grubworms). White grubs are the larval stage of scarab beetles such as green June beetles, Japanese beetles, May beetles, chafer beetles and others. Reasons for reducing white grub populations include reducing the number of adult beetles that emerge next spring and summer to damage landscape plants, flowers, and vegetables as well as reducing potential food sources for moles, skunks, armadillos and other insect eating critters that often dig in home lawns.

If reducing grub populations in your lawn is a goal, consider making an insecticide application now. The period from mid-July through early August is a good time to treat for white grubs as the young grubs that hatched this summer should still be relatively close to the surface of the ground and easier to reach with insecticides. The grubs tend to go deeper into the soil as summer transitions to fall making them more difficult to reach. If you have questions about using an insecticide product for white grub control, please contact us at the Rutherford County Extension office at 615-898-7710.

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