

Late-Winter Issue

THE SHADE TREE GAZETTE

King GREENSM



TURF TALK FROM CHARLIE

Here we are again with another season in the South! As the winter winds stop blowing and spring comes in, I can't help but marvel at the wonderful things Mother Nature has bestowed upon us. It won't be long until the crocus and daffodils begin their spring bloom. After that, all of the spring flowers will follow and we'll be off to the races!



What do you think about our expanded *Shade Tree Gazette*? First, we went to four colors but had to reduce the size because of cost. Now, due to our customers' feedback and your requests for more, we've gone back to a four-page format with more articles, recipes, contests and fun.

Did you know that we're having our 20th birthday on February 15? Yes, 20 years ago with a 6-month-old baby (who is now a junior at North Georgia College), I quit a pretty good job and followed my lifelong dream. With a lot of luck, help from family and friends, and basic hard work, **King GREEN** has survived and prospered. I want to take this opportunity to thank my employees, customers, friends and family for their love and support over these past 20 years. Without them, there wouldn't be a **King GREEN**, and I'd be back at work for someone else.

Thank you for being a **King GREEN** customer. We appreciate your business each and every day. If at any time you feel the need to contact me, please call (770) 536-7611 or visit our Web site at www.kinggreen.com to send an e-mail. We appreciate your input and will do everything in our power to ensure that your experience with us is pleasant and beneficial.

We make every effort to be **The Finest Service Company Available**, and we'll continue to do so in the future.

King GREENSM

www.kinggreen.com

Atlanta and Gainesville: 770-536-7611
Athens and Watkinsville: 706-310-1120
Charlotte: 704-532-6262

About This Service...

Today we applied the late-winter application to your lawn. Cool-season (Fescue) lawns received a balanced fertilizer, broadleaf weed control and a pre-emergent herbicide for the control of annual grasses. This application will enhance the color of your lawn and aid in controlling weeds that may be present at this time. Crabgrass and other annual grasses will be controlled by the pre-emergent herbicide.

Warm-season grasses (Bermuda and Zoysia) received broadleaf weed control and a pre-emergent herbicide. This application won't aid in greening up the lawn, but it will provide nutrients in the soil to be available for the turf once it begins active growth. Weeds that may be present should begin to curl and fade in the next two to three weeks. The pre-emergent herbicide will help to prevent annual grasses from germinating.

Did you receive a tree and shrub application today?

The tree and shrub application today consisted of dormant oil and insecticide. This application utilizes dormant oils to help minimize the use of pesticides later in the year.

The oil actually smothers insects and their eggs. By using a sticking agent, dormant oils remain on the plants longer, thereby increasing their length of effectiveness. This helps to prevent damaging populations later in the season.

Thank you for using King GREEN.

"The Finest Lawn Service Available"



Lawns in Winter

Whatever your grass type, **King GREEN** has a specific program to keep it looking its best. And while each lawn is different, here's a general guide to how your lawn should look at this time of year:

Fescue

Your Fescue lawn probably doesn't have the vibrant color you saw through the fall. The fertilizer we applied today should begin to green it up and promote growth as soon as the soil temperature begins to rise. Fescue will often have a dull appearance at this time of year, and a quick mowing may help to green it up (even though it may not have growth).

Bermuda

Bermuda lawns should be brown and clean. If you see green patches in your lawn at this time of year, give us a call so we can diagnose and treat as needed. During late February or early March, you should scalp your warm-season grasses. Mow to 1" high so it will green up as quickly as possible.



The Weed Patch

Bermuda (as a weed)

Bermuda isn't commonly thought of as a weed. But if you see a clump of Bermuda coming up in the middle of your Fescue turf, we doubt you'd see it as anything except a weed. Bermuda is a warm-season grass and is easy to spot in the winter by appearing dormant in your green Fescue turf.

Although having grassy weeds in your lawn isn't a major disaster, it can certainly become a nuisance. Any small problems should be dug out immediately, taking care to remove all roots. For larger problems, Roundup® herbicides may be the only solution. Please contact your turf specialist for more information.

Fescue (as a weed)

Like Bermuda, Fescue isn't commonly thought of as a weed. But if you see a clump of Fescue coming up in the middle of your Bermuda or Zoysia turf, you'll see it as a weed. Even though you may have had new sod laid recently, Fescue seeds (as well as many other weed seeds) are blowing in the wind.

Preventing Fescue from gaining a foothold in your Bermuda or Zoysia lawn is the best plan of action. For larger problems, herbicides may be the only solution. However, when dealing with a grassy weed, herbicides will also affect your resident turf. If you feel that herbicides are needed, call us to schedule a consultation with your turf specialist.

Bermuda Grass isn't Made for the Shade

"Why does my Bermuda grass look so bad under that tree or next to my house?" We're often asked this question, and there are a couple of answers.

First of all, Bermuda grass needs a good six to eight hours of direct sunlight during the day to thrive. In shady areas (such as under trees or next to houses), it begins to thin out. As density is lost, weeds have an easier time gaining a foothold.

Also, competition for water and nutrients under trees makes it even more difficult for any turf grass to remain healthy. As trees grow and their canopies expand, so do their root systems. **King GREEN** works hard to keep your lawn looking its best. However, all of the fertilizer and lawn treatments in the world won't keep Bermuda grass healthy in heavily shaded areas.

One thing you can do to alleviate the problem is to try and get more sunlight to these areas. I seldom recommend removing trees for the sake of turf grass, but lower limbs can be removed. If you've done everything you can and your Bermuda grass is still struggling, it's time to stop fighting Mother Nature and make some changes. For example, bed lines can be extended further outward and more mulch can be put down. Installing shade-tolerant plant materials or ground covers is also a good alternative to trying to grow Bermuda grass in shady areas.

For more information about other grass types in our area, visit www.kinggreen.com.

King GREENSM IPM
Termite & Pest Control
"The Finest Lawn Service Available"

How our service works: On your initial service, we'll treat both the exterior and interior of your home. With today's advanced pest control materials, we need to service the inside of your home only where there's an active pest problem. On our quarterly follow-up visits, we'll service the exterior of your home with a barrier that will keep pests from re-entering from the outside. If there's ever a concern that requires additional interior treatments, these will be provided whenever needed at no additional cost.

What our service covers: Our service covers most common crawling insects and rodent pests. There's no extra charge for ants, spiders, roaches or other common pests.

What our service doesn't include: Our service doesn't include wild animals, squirrels in the attic, lawn insects and woodpeckers.

Our Guarantee: Because of our confidence in our programs and service, we guarantee your satisfaction with each and every **King GREEN** service. If you're not completely satisfied with the results of any application, we'll gladly reservice your home or refund the cost of the application in question.

Call Us Today!
(770) 536-7611 • (800) 891-7965
www.kinggreen.com



Shrubs

Pruning Time

Most of your shrubs are dormant or not growing at this time of year. As the weather begins to warm up, you'll notice growth. Now is the proper time to prune your crape myrtles and some of your other summer-flowering shrubs.



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What's for Dinner?

Cincinnati-style Chili

A Cincinnati favorite for decades, this chili has a taste all its own...not your conventional chili! Caution: can be addictive.

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground sirloin | 1 Tbs. jalapenos (or to taste) |
| 1 – 14 oz. can of chili beans
(e.g. Chili Magic) | 2 tsp. granulated sugar |
| 1 – 14 oz. can of diced tomatoes | 1 Tbs. brown sugar |
| 1 large onion (finely diced) | 1/4 tsp. cinnamon |
| 2 Tbs. cocoa (or cocoa mix) | 1 box of spaghetti |
| 2 Tbs. chili powder | Cheddar cheese (optional) |

Lightly brown ground sirloin and drain excess grease. Mix sirloin together with all ingredients (except spaghetti and cheese) and let simmer on stove top (or on medium setting of a crock pot) for 3 to 4 hours.

Pour chili over serving of spaghetti and add shredded cheddar cheese (optional) on top. Serves 4...**enjoy!**

20/20 Referral Program

King GREEN appreciates your business and is giving you the opportunity to receive a \$20 credit. Plus, your friend can receive \$20 off their first service! Refer a new customer to **King GREEN** for any tree, shrub or lawn care service, and when they sign up for service, you'll receive a \$20 credit and your friend will receive \$20 off their first service. It's that easy!

Call us today for details!

King GREENSM

"The Finest Lawn Service Available"

We Provide Expert:

- Lawn Care
- Tree and Shrub Care
- Aeration
- Aeration Seeding
- Fungicide
- Fire Ant Control
- Kudzu Control
- Commercial Services
- Termite and Pest Control

Call (770) 536-7611

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