SBS GAZETTE

972-831-8181 March 2020

MARCH-ing Roots

When creating new beds this March, be aware of disturbing any Bermuda grass. This warm season "warrior" grass creeps above as well as below ground. It spreads by rhizomes below ground and stolons above ground. Rhizomes are modified stems that live below the soil and send new plants up to the surface. Stolons creep across the top of the ground and send out fresh roots wherever nodes contact the soil. A node is a part of the plant that is capable of producing new growth.

If you till over the Bermuda grass, you will chop it in to numerous pieces. Unfortunately, each piece that contains a node will form a new healthy plant. In other words it will multiply and become much harder to remove. You may spend several years trying to recover from this move.

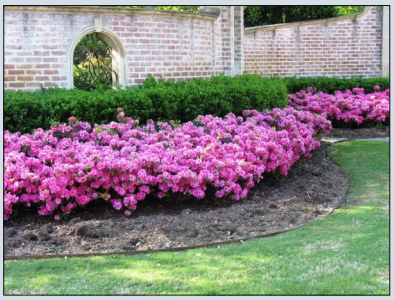
Consider removing the Bermuda grass by cutting it out as a sod layer. By removing the top 3-4" it will keep most of the plants from growing back. In addition, you will also have healthy pieces of sod to use somewhere else in the landscape.

If you decide to use chemicals, you would be better off to wait a few more weeks for the grass to "green up". Dormant Bermuda grass cannot be killed with chemical applications.

Now that you have the grass out of the way, tilling up the underlying soil and tilling in one of our finished composts or compost/expanded shale blends is the ideal bed prep. Utilizing our ***pH Balanced Compost***™ or ***Gumbo Buster***® is a sure fire way to make your plants happy for the long haul.

Product Spotlight: Azalea Mix

Unlike the old-school azalea soils on the market (peat moss and pine bark), the SBS Azalea Mix is easy to wet and drains nicely, eliminating the wet-feet problems associated with traditional and mostly inert azalea blends.



Our Azalea Mix, also in contrast, uses renewable ingredients so it is better for the environment, and has the prescribed pH and nitrogen levels appropriate for azaleas. Shown here with its popping brilliance.

WORMS

Worms are hermaphrodites and have no fewer than 5 hearts. They don't have lungs, but instead breathe through their skin as long as it stays moist. The slimy surface of the worm actually allows the little creature to breathe. Worms enrich soil by feeding on organic material in the soil and converting it into nutrients for plants. As the worms move through the soil it becomes more absorbent and better aerated. Worms come 'running' towards SBS soils!!

Rain Stats

30-year average
Jan & Feb = 4.8"

Jan & Feb 2020 = 8.9"

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