

Newsletter

May 2008

Weather Information:

Dry and windy is the order of the day. May is shaping up to be both and quite typical. Keep sunblock and a wide-brimmed hat available, and make drinking plenty of water a habit!

Monthly averages for the Phoenix Metro Area:

MAY	Highs -	Low -	Mean -	Avg. Precip. -	Rec. -	Rec. -
	92°F	58°F	75°F	.20 in.	110°F	36°F

Turf Issues:

The Bermuda will continue to take over as the dominant grass in the turf areas. While we are, at this time, watering lightly to speed the conversion process along, we will be watering only a few times per week once the Bermuda has become established.

You may have noticed we have mown the turf down to 2" in height over the last few weeks. Once the lower mowing is accomplished, we will be moving the height back up to 3" and leaving the height at 3" for the remainder of the summer season. The turf has been heavily fertilized as well.

Homeowner Tip:



Watch for fungus problems in turf once the night temperatures are consistently over 65 degrees. Fertilize in May.

Granite Issues:

The weeds, after the massive amount of rain we had over the winter, got somewhat ahead of us... they are now back under control.

Most plants will receive a light shaping trim to maintain a neat appearance without being too formal, the exception being those still in bloom.

Trees:

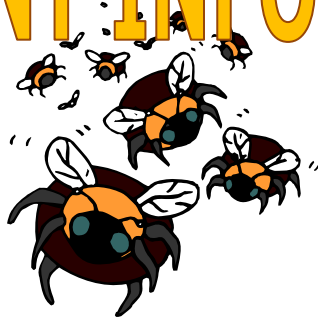
We will continue to remove sucker growth and damaged limbs from the trees.

We will begin trimming out center growth in preparation for the Monsoon later this month.

Irrigation:

We are currently irrigating twice per week in granite areas. We will be remaining at this setting until July and perhaps beyond depending on temperatures.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Bees will be particularly bad this year due to the rainfall and every single honey bee in Arizona, almost without exception, is an Africanized Honey Bee. Please keep your pets and children close by when traversing the NAOS or other natural areas.

Remember... if attacked, just run and keep on running.

Bugs in general will be particularly bad this year due to the rainfall. Keep your Crickets and Roaches under control and you'll have fewer Scorpions to deal with this summer.

West Nile Virus



A few pointers about West Nile Virus and how to prevent the growth of **Mosquitoes**.

1. Most folks who do contract WNV have no symptoms. 25% of those contracting WNV show only minor flu like symptoms. Only 2% of those contracting WNV have any serious symptoms and then tend to be only those at risk due to serious health issues already in existence.
2. Primarily, birds carry the WNV. When a **mosquito** feeds from a bird with WNV, the virus may be passed to the **mosquito's** next victim. While horses and birds are very susceptible to WNV other common animals, such as dogs and cats, are not.
3. The shortest life cycle of any **mosquito** in Arizona is 72 hours. If you see standing water that evaporates in less than 3 days, you have nothing to worry about in that patch of water.
4. **Mosquitoes** CANNOT live in open, agitated water, therefore, golf course ponds, circulating fountains and water surfaces moved by wind action do not support **mosquitoes**. Those of you with standing water in birdbaths must remove and re-fill the basin every 3 days.
5. When in the outdoors use a repellent with DEET.

Thank you very much,

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