

# Spring Newsletter

A L C O N S E R V I C E S , I N C

## A L C O N S E R V I C E S O V E R V I E W

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Alcon Services is a locally owned and operated full service company. We not only provide Pest, Termite & Rodent Control, we also provide Weed and Lawn & Ornamental services.

Alcon Services is licensed by the State of Texas, to treat for Pests, Termites, Rodents, Weed Prevention & Control, and Lawn & Ornamental Disease Control.

We will provide you with a no cost evaluation and quote. In addition we do not require you sign a contract.

It is our company philosophy that we do not require you to commit to a monthly, quarterly, or annual contract. Many of our competitors will try to sell you a quarterly program.



Let us help you maintain a beautiful, healthy lawn

There is nothing magical about 60 or 90 days, find out what works best for you

and your family, everyone's bug tolerance is different.

We on the other hand will work with you to find the best schedule for you.

We can set you up on a specific schedule or that you receive routine reminders or you can call us when you have a problem.

Of course scheduling routine service calls is the best way to keep your home bug free.

In this edition we will provide tips on Pest & Termite Control Prevention, and how to fertilize your lawn.

## P E S T C O N T R O L T I P S

Spring and Bugs will be upon us shortly. Generally in March we can expect to see Carpenter Ants (large ant, up to 1/2"), who like to nest in moist places, around doors, windows, roof decks, decaying lumber and many other places. There could be multi-

colonies, and when they swarm many people think TERMITES. But they aren't. Treatment for Carpenter Ants can be quite simple once the nests are located and identified.

Over the winter months most bugs die off, or go into hibernation. They also have laid the

next generation of bugs, that will emerge when the weather starts to warm up. We recommend an outside perimeter treatment around your home, this will prevent bugs from becoming a problem, and save you money and frustration. March and April are the

optimum time for bug prevention.



LAWN & ORNAMENTAL TIPS

In order to maintain a beautiful yard, Spring is the best time to have your trees, shrubs, and lawn fertilized. Also, a great time to replant, or do any serious pruning.

This year, the extended winter will affect the recommended fertilizer and weed prevention schedules.

Typically weed prevention applications should begin in late February, early March.

Broadleaf weed control can be quite simple, but crab grass and nut sedges can be more complicated.

As we move forward into Spring it is time to start thinking about what you need to do to maintain your lawn, trees and shrubs.

Fertilization; did you know:

When to apply ?

How much to apply?

Do you need weed control?

Bug prevention?

Here are tips for you to consider.

**Fertilizer**

Most lawns (Bermuda & St. Augustine) require 3-5lbs. of nitrogen per year, per 1000 sq. ft. to have a good looking lawn.

For example Bermuda Grass requires 2-5lbs. 3.5 lbs. being middle of the road of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft./per year. Therefore a 2500 sq. ft. yard would require 8.75 lbs. Of Nitrogen per year.

The first thing you need to do is find out the size of your yard (Length x Width=Sq. Ft.)

The most common fertilizers are supplied with ratios of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash (21-0-0).

(Plus various other supplements)

Second you need to determine how many pounds of nitrogen are included in a bag of fertilizer?

In this example lets use 21-0-0, which means the bag contains 21% Nitrogen, 0% Phosphate, 0% Potash, per 100lbs.

$100/21=4.76$ lbs, which means

4.76 lbs of fertilizer must be applied to get 1lb. of Nitrogen.

Our owner's front yard is 2500 sq. ft. and he wants a healthy, good looking yard, he does not want to waste money on unnecessary chemicals, and he is really concerned about polluting the water supply and environment.

He will apply 3.5lbs of Nitrogen/1000 sq. ft. (middle of the road), to 2500 sq. ft. lawn, which equals 8.75lbs/year.

To get 1lb/1000 sq. ft., he will apply 4.76lbs of fertilizer ( $4.76 \times 8.75=41.65$ lbs of fertilizer per year. He will purchase 50lb of fertilizer and apply three (3) applications per year, in March, April, and September.

In the spring use a high nitrogen based fertilizer to give the lawn a jump start, then in 6-8 weeks treat with another application with a 27-0-7 fertilizer, slow release fertilizer, and again in the fall for good root development.

**Weed Control**

A weed and feed that is put down too early will encourage existing weeds to grow, and will do very little for the dormant grass. Broadleaf weed control can be fairly easy if you don't let them take over your yard. Crab grasses, and nut sedges are more difficult, but can be

gotten under control. If you have a lot of weeds and little grass, with a lot of dirt showing it might be easier to call and discuss alternatives. It can get very expensive.

Pre-emergent weed control is the key to a happy healthy, good looking yard.

It needs to be put down late

February, or early March (this year March will do fine), and again in the fall.

Broadleaf, and crab grass weeds will continue to be a problem until a weed prevention program is initiated, and is one of the reasons why a lot of companies want to get you on a program to treat for weeds

every 6 to 8 weeks.

Please give us a call to discuss your turf and shrub issues. We can set up a program that will give you a green lawn in no time.



WE ARE ON THE WEB  
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## TERMITE PREVENTION TIPS

Termites typically will start to become more active in mid-March through May,

Be on the lookout for any swarming activity in and around your home and yard.

Remember just because you may see flying insects swarming, that does not automatically mean you have termites.

Some ant reproductive are also winged. If it looks like an ant (head, thorax, and abdomen) it is ants.

Termite Swarmer are usually about 1/4" in size, and are more cylinder shaped.

If you are planning any remodeling, renovations or additions,

think termites, and call us to discuss what can be done as preventive treatments.

If you are buying, or know someone buying a new home, have it treated, not just inspected. Every year we hear customers say "we just bought a house and had it inspected". The report said we did not have termites, and now we do.

A termite inspection is a visual inspection, and cannot reveal what is going on inside the walls, or beneath the floors. Termites come with the territory in north Texas we deal with the Eastern Subterranean termite. It's slow but tenacious

If your home has not been treated for termites, and not under a termite warranty.

Have your home inspected each and every spring by a qualified individual, it should not cost you any money, and can reveal many things about your home and yard that you may not have known.

If you have any questions or concerns about your home or yard. Give us a call we can discuss over the phone or we can schedule a time to stop by your home to inspect.

Termites cause a lot of excitement every year, and a lot of people overreact. We have always asked people to calm

down, the house won't fall apart overnight. Get an education, and start researching methods of treatment, companies, and pricing.

The annual termite renewal is a very important part of the service, and should be evaluated carefully.

Termidor has been very successful over the past 5 years, and longer in Europe, but termites have been with us a long time, and know how to adapt.

