



# Basic Guide to Improving Your Lawn and Ornamental Plants

Phone: (727 )394-8668

Email:

*This Basic Guide will provide you with simple information about Landscape Care and Pest Control.*

**C**ollins' customer invoices make it easy to exchange information with our customers. ***Our invoice is left at the door after a service visit and provides information about your landscape*** and is another one of our free value-add services.

**C**ollins' invoice is **easy-to-read**. Its purpose is to provide value-add communications:

- ✓ Keep you informed
- ✓ Provide valuable information
- ✓ Notify you of pressing issues
- ✓ Make it easy to understand Lawn Care and Shrub Care

This white-paper, "Basic Guide to Improving Your Lawn and Ornamental Plants" is to educate you with the basics of landscape care.



## Irrigation

Watering schedules change according to weather conditions and temperatures. This ideal time to water is early in the morning. Typically, most sprinkler systems should be set to start to around 2AM to 4 AM and should be set to be finished with all zones by 8 AM in the morning. Lawns watered in the heat of the day don't retain much soil moisture and watering in the early morning hours helps the soil retain the moisture which is more beneficial to the health of turf and ornamentals plants. Generally, ornamentals should get about 1/3 of the volume of water it takes to keep the lawn from being stressed.



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Too much water can cause problems such as root rots, fungus or too little water can cause draught damage. Be sure to check your invoice for watering information or call into our office for details on how many days and how long to water. Also, remember to water in your treatments within a few days of an application.

Also keep in mind, there are usually watering irrigation restrictions imposed by the county. Please check our website for the local water irrigation restrictions, by clicking on menu item "**Resources**". Our "*Resources*" webpage contains watering restriction links for the City of Tampa, Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas counties.

It is highly recommended to have your irrigation system checked at a minimum of every six months. Clogged heads, missing heads, broken water lines will all contribute to unknown problems and cause less than favorable results in your lawns' appearance.

## Is Your Grass Getting Enough Water?

### Efficient Sprinkler Head Watering Means Lower Lawn Maintenance Cost

Keeping your sprinklers in tiptop shape can save you money and result in a healthy yard and ornamental plants. As irrigation systems age, effectiveness to supply water where you need it is often reduced. This may be due to sprinklers: aging losing their seal and leaking, being obstructed, clogged by grass or soil or require adjustment

When sprinkler heads sink below the grass surface, they fail to operate properly. As trees, shrub and flowers grow or new ones are planted, sprinkler heads become out of place and improperly water. Heads become misaligned and require adjustments for correct coverage or even blocked a plant or shrub to prevent adequate water coverage.

**In any case, malfunctioning sprinkler heads are one reason why water is not delivered where you expected or need it.**

You can do it yourself or hire a reliable maintenance service company to solve your sprinkler head problems by:



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- ❖ Inspect each sprinkler head to ensure it's operating correctly
- ❖ Remove grass and clumped soil that impedes head performance and perform head adjustment
- ❖ Install a cement donut for each heads to slow the growth of interfering grass and protect the head
- ❖ Test water coverage to ensure it's doing the job
- ❖ Replace damage or broken heads by installing new ones -- note there are different types of heads – select the right ones
- ❖ Level those sunken sprinkler heads by bring up a sunken head to be even with the grass level
- ❖ Relocate sprinkler heads or extend them upward to bypass obstacles. The cost will depend on distance, direction and amount of piping.
- ❖ Adjust all sprinkler heads for the proper rotation angle, and spray as needed

## Service Calls

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**Collins'** service calls are provided free of charge with 4, 6, and 8 times per year service. With monthly service, the chemical residual should carry you to the next treatment.

## Programs for St. Augustine Lawns

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**With 8 times per year**, your services are **every 5-7 weeks**, leaving you with 4-5 week residual and a period for the possibility of damage. **During weeks 5-7** is when you'll need to check the property and notify us if problems are observed.

**Six times per year** is **every other month** and leaves you with approximately **4 weeks** that you'll have to keep your eye on the lawn. This service interval is not recommended and customers in the category can expect problems to occur especially in rainy periods and in the late summer months.



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We do offer 4 times per year programs for **Bahia lawns**. This includes fertilization and weed control and we do not offer service calls for this programs or guarantee results.

Each program offers fertilization each visit, insect control during specific months, fungus control when needed and weed control during the cooler months only. Our staff is proactive in scheduling your treatments and will inform you via a phone call to confirm our visit. Also, our technicians will often schedule on their own follow-up calls, when needed, to provide the best results for your lawn.

## Weeds

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Weeds may be treated from October 1st through May. This depends on the temperatures since the chemicals for weeds can burn the lawn and cause unhealthy stress levels or turf death in the heat of the summer. Keep in mind that lawn mowers and windy conditions can spread weeds and weedy grasses from lawn to lawn. The best way to keep form having a weedy lawn is to have good irrigation practices. This keeps the lawn more dense and dense lawns have lower weed populations. Stressed turf allows weeds to grown and spread more quickly.

## Trees & Shrubs

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We also treat ornamental trees & shrubs and offer the same service levels, programs and service calls on those as well. Fertilization, insect control and disease control are incorporated as our program for trees and shrubs. Generally, we perform this service at the same time as the lawn treatment. We do not treat the weeds in the shrub beds because it may injure the plants.



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## Optional Services

**Palm Fertilizer** stakes planted deep into the root ball can be inexpensive answer to greening up, yellowing, or stunned palms.

**Sedge Grasses** sometimes grow wild in watery swales usually between houses when both neighbors over water or there is poor drainage. It also becomes noticeable in bare areas and when seedlings are brought or blown in from other lawns.

There are products that can provide control during the cooler weather. We can offer additional treatments for this according to the amount in your lawn and charge only once per year. These treatments are provided as many times as possible during the cooler months of the year during your regular program. No weed control exists for: Bermuda, Carpet Grass or Crab Grass.

**Ornamental Soil Drenches** consisting of fungicide and/or insecticide may be recommended when contact treatments will not cure severe infestations of insects or fungus. This is a systemic treatment which kills the insects/fungus from within and can produce better results than our spray program when needed.

This offer is a great deal.  
*But our results are even better!*

**Collins**  
Lawn & Shrub Care

727-394-8668  
WWW.COLLINSLAWNSPRAYING.COM

**FREE INITIAL SERVICE!**  
See website for details.

★★★★★  
Excellent Customer Service. Free Estimating.  
Collins has over 18 years and the VERY highest of  
reputation and service around.  
- Todd L. Wellington Beach, FL



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## Customer Service

Our friendly staff is available from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday and will be glad to help you with any questions you may have. Our easy-to-read invoice sheet will be left at your door. If you need any clarification of your invoice, please don't hesitate to call us at your convenience.

Please note: We have a 14 day payment requirement when paying by check or you may also pay online immediately through our website by credit card or debit card. Pay a year in advance for our **Annual Multi-Service Bundle** to get our discount.

Call Us **(727) 394-8668** today for a free quote from Collins.