



Smart Irrigation Controllers

By Jacob Cheatham

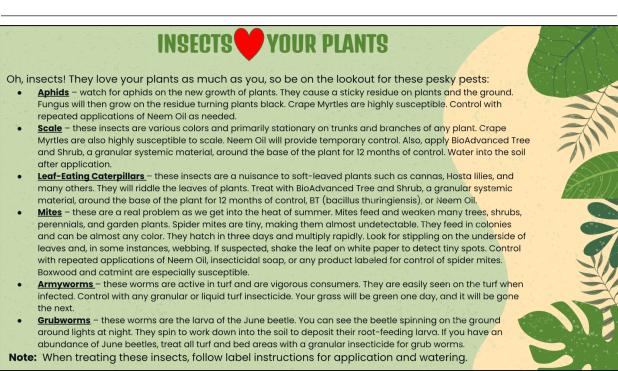
Knowing how to set your irrigation controller can be a huge challenge! The decisions on watering days, start times, and run times can add up and cause confusion. On top of all that, weather conditions can affect how much your irrigation system needs to run. I recently installed a smart irrigation controller at my house to take the guesswork out of setting up my irrigation system, and it has been a life-saver.

Smart controllers replace your standard irrigation controller, usually found in your garage. After some personal research, I decided to install the B-Hyve controller by Orbit, which can be purchased on Amazon. I installed my new controller and set it up within one afternoon. The system can run from your phone once the controller is

installed and paired with your home Wi-Fi, allowing you to manage your irrigation wherever you are.

Once installed, the app will ask questions about each zone in your system. It will ask whether the zone runs sprays, rotors, or drip irrigation. It will ask about sun exposure, soil type, and the plant material that the zone waters. After gathering all this information, the app will schedule irrigation run times based on the weather for your zip code and the information provided. The smart watering schedule can also add parameters to fit within any local watering restrictions.

Now that you are set-up, your smart watering schedule starts; all you have to do is sit back and watch your landscape thrive! Because the watering schedule is personalized to your landscape and weather conditions, you save water and have peace of mind that your turf and plants are doing well.





Lawn Care

By Jennifer Hall

The hotter weather of June promotes faster grass growth! Trying to keep up with the mowing can be a daunting task, but to avoid stressing the grass, remove at most 1/3 of the total length of the grass blade each time you mow.

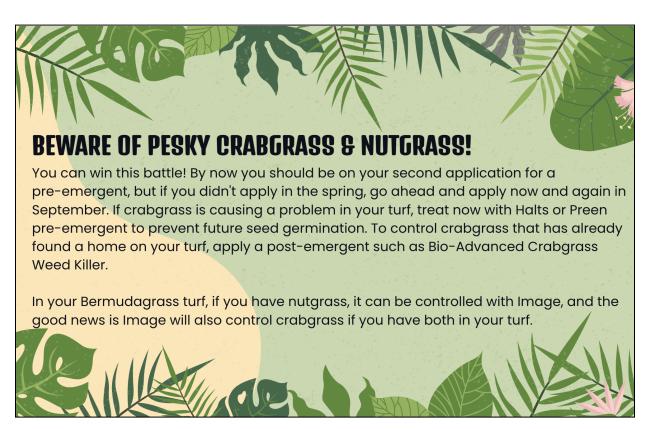
However, if your turf is still weak from freeze damage and not growing as rapidly as you would like, apply a slow-release fertilizer so the lawn will recover and grow gradually. Not all fertilizers are created equal, and a slow-release nitrogen-based fertilizer is much better for feeding your lawn slowly. Quick-release fertilizers are more likely to burn your turf and cause rapid growth for a short period.

In addition, monitor turf for diseases and treat with a turf fungicide if needed. Gray leaf spots and brown patches are prominent in St. Augustinegrass during summer, and you can control them with a

turf fungicide. The brown patch will cause circular yellowing spots in the turf, and the grey leaf spot causes spots on grass blades that are oval or round.

Last but not least, watering is a vital turf health issue. A general recommendation is to water your turf two to three times per week. Run times depend on whether you have spray heads or rotors. Overwatering can lead to turf diseases. If your lawn has a grayish cast, it may need more water. Ensure you have a moisture depth of 4-6 inches. You can check this by inserting a screwdriver into your turf.

Turf covers your yard and is a big part of your landscaping, so keep it looking sharp!



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