

# Tips For Watering St. Augustine Grass

Dear Plant Doctor: I live at the beach and have, most of the time, a very good stand of St. Augustine grass. Please give me whatever information you have concerning blade height for mowing, frequency of fertilization, and type of fertilizer—also include timing of fertilizer application and weed control practices.

## THE PLANT DOCTOR

**C. BRUCE WILLIAMS**  
Extension Area  
Turf Specialist



I have an irrigation system and usually water when the grass blades do not readily spring back when walked on...is this a good gauge to determine when to water?

In some areas of the irrigation system, I have installed a "sweat" line. What can you tell me about this type of irrigation? Is it a good system? Thanks.

Answer: I am sending you a copy of "Carolina Lawns—AG-69". This N.C. State University publication is one of the best turf care publications available in the southeast United States and will answer all your St. Augustine grass questions. Copies of the publication can be obtained from any N.C. Cooperative Extension office.

The "footprint" test is an excellent gauge to determine when to water your grass. However, for most homeowners this is not always practical. Irrigation water timing is very

important. In the absence of rainfall most warm season turfgrasses (Bermuda, centipede, St. Augustine, carpet or zoysia) receive benefit from 0.5 inch of irrigation water every 3 days during the growing season.

Excessive air temperatures (greater than 95 F.) will require more frequent watering and cooler temperatures, less frequent watering. Continue to water warm season grasses until they go brown and go totally dormant in the late fall.

"Sweat-line" or related type irrigation systems are widely used in commercial horticulture production. For the most part these systems conserve water, reduce weed infestations, and deliver water directly to the soil nearest the plant roots. I would encourage any serious gar-

dener to investigate "sweat-line" type systems or related drip irrigation systems. Most of these systems are environmentally friendly and horticulturally sound.

Dear Plant Doctor: Please tell me what kind of grass this stuff is? How can I get rid of it? I have to mow this "stuff" every day or my little white poodle gets full of black seeds. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Answer: Do I note a little hostility toward your lawn?

You have "stuff" called bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*). Bahiagrass is wonderful grass for utility areas and animal grazing because it is tolerant or resistant to about every living disease or pest. During hot weather seed heads continually seem to appear and are nearly impossible to cut except with a sharp-bladed rotary mower. Roundup (glyphosate) will kill bahiagrass and nearly any other plant the product touches. The autumn is an excellent time to treat undesirable plants with Roundup.

However, selectively killing bahiagrass out of your lawn without killing other grasses can be tricky and depends upon the desired type of lawngrass. Optimum treatment time for many of the selective herbi-

cides is during the spring or summer. Bahiagrass in the home lawn is nearly impossible to selectively kill during the autumn with the currently available herbicide products.

Please let me know what kind of grass you have underneath all that "black seeded" bahiagrass stuff and I will be glad to send you information on how to best treat your lawn next summer.

Send your gardening questions and comments to the Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, NC 28422.



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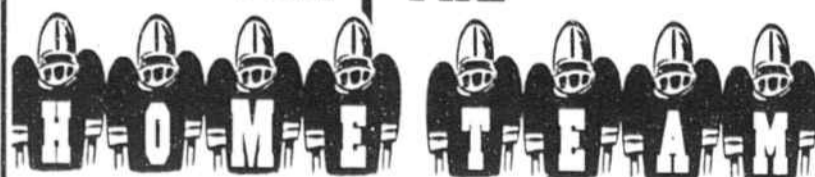
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## Storytellers Young And Old To Enter Bullshooting Event

"Have you heard the story..."

"Did I tell you..."

"This ain't no lie..."

These are all standard openings for a storyteller.

As the stories are expanded and embellished almost to the point of unbelievable, they may become part of the repertoire of a certified bullshooter, a teller of the tallest tales.

"The bigger the tale the more interesting the story is the general rule of the bullshooter," says Jimmy Marshall, emcee of the 1993 N.C. Oyster Festival Bullshooting Contest. "A little bit of local 'flavor' never hurts the story either."



MARSHALL

While costumes or visual aids aren't required, he said, they create added interest.

Just ask Robert "Bush" Laughter (pronounced law-ter), a local historian and storyteller from the Hendersonville area who donned a backwoodsman's coonskin cap and fringed jacket and hefted a black powder rifle to spin mountain yarns at the 1993 competition.

While Marshall is sometimes prone to tell a tall tale or two himself, he says "this ain't no lie": Storytellers young and old from near and far should plan on entering this year's Bullshooting Contest, which will be held the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 16, in conjunction with the two-day N.C. Oyster Festival sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

This year, for the first time, trophies will be awarded to a champion and two runners-up in each of two age divisions: ages 17 and older; and 16-and-under.

Time limits will be no less than 7 minutes and more than 10 minutes for the adults, and no less than 3 minutes and no more than 5 minutes for the younger entrants.

Also new this year: a \$1 entry fee, payable in advance of the contest.

All stories entered must be in good taste. Judging will be based on originality, content, delivery and organization, and will be coordinated by the Coast Toasters Toastmasters Club of Shallotte, a chamber member organization.

The festival will be held at the Seaside intersection of N.C. 904 and N.C. 179, Sunset Beach.

Entry forms for participants and copies of the judging guidelines may be obtained in advance of the festival from the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce office, 4948 Main Street, Shallotte, 754-6644. On-site registration at the festival will be at the chamber booth.

For more information, contact Marshall at 754-8400, or the chamber office.

## Stained Glass Class Offered

Ed Simpson will teach a stained glass class at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department on Mondays from noon until 4:30 p.m.

The course is offered through the Continuing Education Department of Brunswick Community College. Cost is \$49.50, and deadline for enrollment is Sept. 27.

Call BCC Continuing Education at 754-6922 for more information.

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<p><b>Big 8 All Meat Gwaltney Franks</b> 99¢ 1 Lb.</p>	<p><b>Spare Ribs</b> \$1.39 Lb. Save 60¢ per lb. Extra Lean Fresh Pork</p>	<p><b>Tasty Yellow Onions</b> 99¢ 3 Lb. Bag</p>

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## Missing Something?

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**Emily Beddoes, M.S., CCC/A**

The Doctors Complex - Brunswick Hospital, Supply, N.C.  
Located in the offices of Mark A. Lizak, M.D.

Family screenings available and encouraged!