



QUALITY FIRST
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Dear Valued Customer,

The following is a brief explanation of some issues you may be experiencing. The material has been pulled from the University of Florida entomology department.

How do you know if you have a real problem?

How do you know what will solve that problem the fastest?

1. This time of year we experience a pest called the Sod Web Worm. This insect has a complete life cycle. It goes through the same life stages as a butterfly. You may also notice this time of year we are seeing a lot of butterflies. This is important to understand because in our area all the insects in the moth and butterfly families are pupating and developing into the adults you see fluttering around your property. All of these insects are very sensitive to heat and sun. This forces them to gather in shady areas of your lawn.
With all of this said, only a small number of the dingy brown moths you see in your lawn are actually sod web worm moths. It also is impossible to eliminate the moths. Sprays will only kill the ones that are there at the time of the spray. As soon as the spray dries moths from other areas will move in because the environment is favorable. (cool, shady, and moist) Having moths in a lawn does not mean there are insects currently or potentially damaging the lawn. We also visit the property about every 30 days for those of you with shrub care so we are their frequently enough to prevent extensive damage. It takes 21 days for an egg to develop into a caterpillar.
2. Should you notice areas of the lawn looking brownish there are several reasons why this might happen. The most common reason this time of the year is drought. We are always very happy to inspect when you have questions but it can take a couple of days after you notice a problem before we get out to inspect the area. A couple of days of drought can be extremely damaging and take months to recover. If you notice areas not looking good a real simple and quick check of the soil could save you from months of dealing with recovery. If the soil is dry the only way to fix the problem is to get it moist again. This may require adding additional watering days and if the area is small it may even require doing some watering with a hose and garden sprinkler. The longer it takes to get the area wet again the longer it will take for the area to recover.
3. If you see browning in the lawn and you have checked the soil and it is moist than very likely you have something going on that will require treatment.

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