



904-730-4688

Homeowner Lawn Care  
Shade and Soil Chemistry

All plants including turf grasses need adequate light and proper soil chemistry to grow.

**Fertilizer is not a replacement for sunlight –**

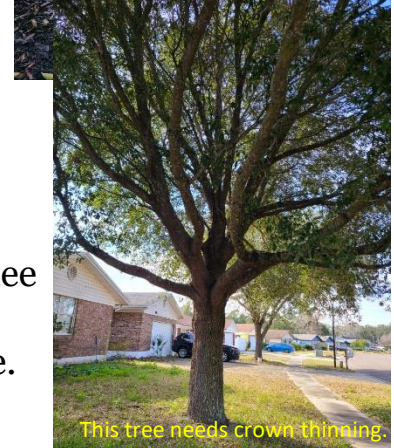
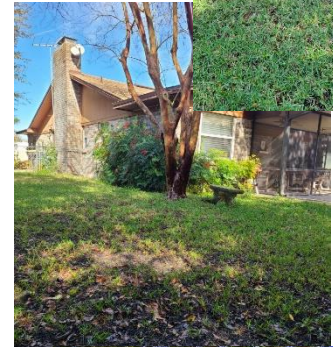
Areas of your lawn under trees or in shade from other large objects will tend to be weaker than areas with adequate sunlight. No amount of fertilizer can replace the energy a plant gains through the natural process of photosynthesis. Even “shade tolerant” varieties of St. Augustine grass still require eight hours of sunlight each day.

**Proper maintenance of tree canopy -**

In order to have healthy grass under tree canopies, a Certified Arborist should be consulted to perform both “Canopy Raising” and “Crown Thinning.” This will guarantee your shade trees will be in good health for decades to come and your lawn will be able to receive adequate sun exposure.

**Soil Chemistry/pH –**

In Northeast Florida, pines, oaks and other deciduous trees drop leaves and needles which decompose and create high tannic acid levels in the soil which corresponds to low pH levels (acidic soils). St. Augustine, Bermuda and Zoysia grasses grow well in mildly acidic conditions (6.5-7.0 pH). Only Centipede grass flourishes in low pH soil (below 6.5). There are two options for thinning turf grass due to low pH and that is to apply Dolomitic Lime on an annual basis to raise the pH or to establish a Centipede grass lawn via seed, plug or sod.



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