



Gardening Basics

Turf Inquiry

In order for the Garden Help Desk to assist you when you have problems with your turfgrass, please supply pictures and answers to the questions below. Our email address is: master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov

Photos are vital in order to diagnose problems. Please send us the following pictures, as appropriate, to show:

- The damaged area, both up close and from a distance, so we can see how your total lawn is affected.
- The landscape in total, including what is providing shade to the lawn. e.g. from the street to show the whole front yard
- Pull up several blades and also blades with roots attached. Put them on white paper to photograph
- Be sure to show both sides of the grass blades if there are discoloration or deposits

Please answer the following questions, as appropriate:

- What type of grass do you have? Bermuda? St Augustine? Zoysia? Other?
- When did you first see damage? Was it sudden or gradual?
- What is your irrigation water source?
- What is your watering schedule? How often per week/month? What time of day?
- Is there a drainage problem? If yes, please send pictures
- When did you last fertilize and what did you use?
- What herbicides, if any, have you used in the last 12 months on the grass? On other plants on your property?
- What insecticides have you used in the last 12 months?
- How many hours of full direct sunlight does the damaged area get each day?
- Pull up several blades: Did they come away from the roots easily or did the roots remain attached?

Send pictures of the blades and roots as noted above

Over or under fertilization and amounts of trace elements in the soil can cause problems with your turf. In order to evaluate the nutrient levels in your soil, have you had a soil test done in the past 3 years? Get all the information about the how's and why's of testing at our "Soil Testing (Gardening Basics Series)" at <https://dcmga.com/garden-basics-soil-testing>