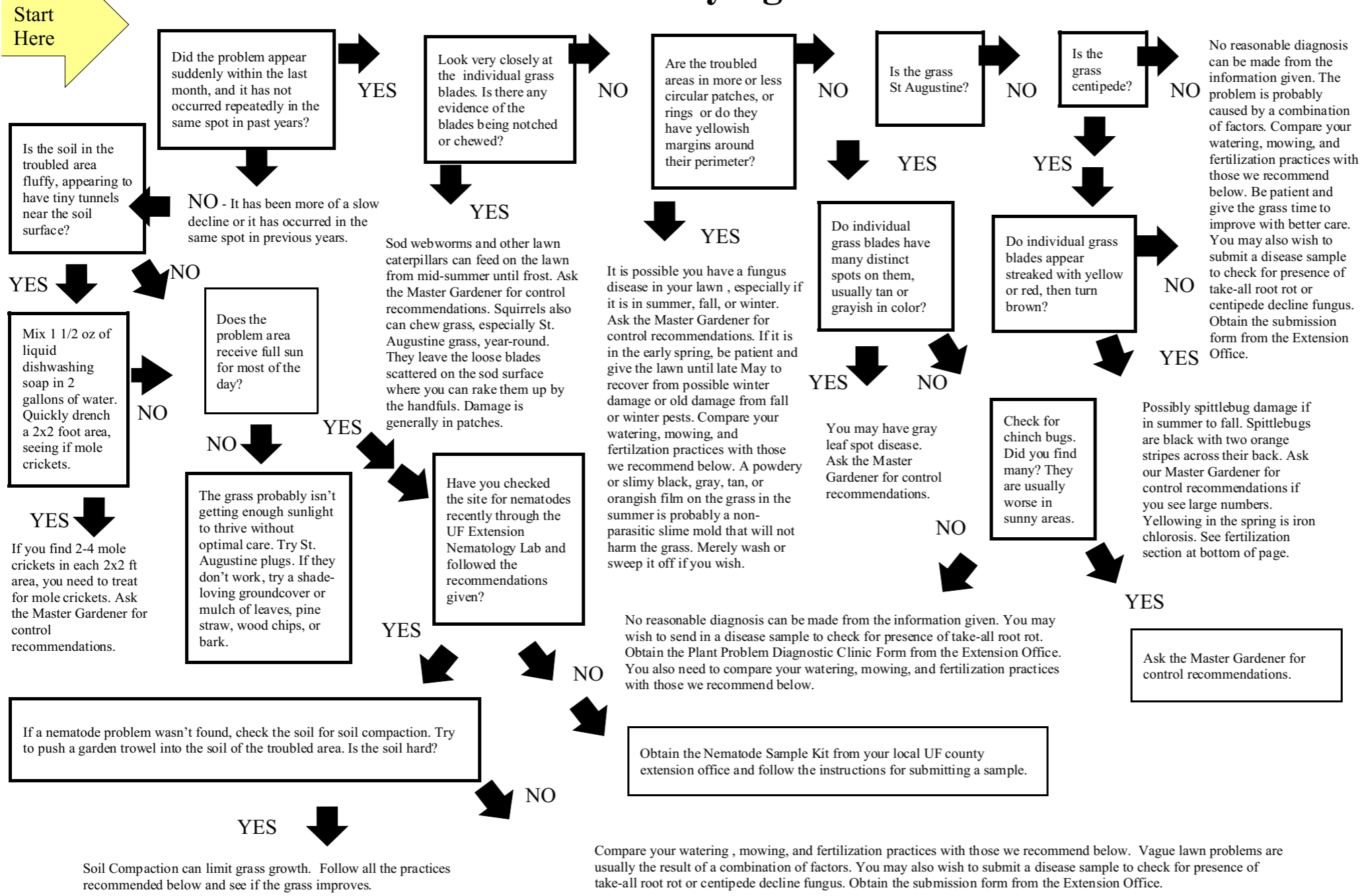


LAWN PROBLEMS ... dying or dead areas in the lawn



No reasonable diagnosis can be made from the information given. The problem is probably caused by a combination of factors. Compare your watering, mowing, and fertilization practices with those we recommend below. Be patient and give the grass time to improve with better care. You may also wish to submit a disease sample to check for presence of take-all root rot or centipede decline fungus. Obtain the submission form from the Extension Office.

Possibly spittlebug damage if in summer to fall. Spittlebugs are black with two orange stripes across their back. Ask our Master Gardener for control recommendations if you see large numbers. Yellowing in the spring is iron chlorosis. See fertilization section at bottom of page.

No reasonable diagnosis can be made from the information given. You may wish to send in a disease sample to check for presence of take-all root rot. Obtain the Plant Problem Diagnostic Clinic Form from the Extension Office. You also need to compare your watering, mowing, and fertilization practices with those we recommend below.

Ask the Master Gardener for control recommendations.

Obtain the Nematode Sample Kit from your local UF county extension office and follow the instructions for submitting a sample.

Soil Compaction can limit grass growth. Follow all the practices recommended below and see if the grass improves.

Compare your watering, mowing, and fertilization practices with those we recommend below. Vague lawn problems are usually the result of a combination of factors. You may also wish to submit a disease sample to check for presence of take-all root rot or centipede decline fungus. Obtain the submission form from the Extension Office.

**FOR MORE GARDENING INFORMATION
VISIT OUR LEON COUNTY EXTENSION UF/IFAS WEBSITE AT:
[HTTP://LEON.IFAS.UFL.EDU](http://leon.ifas.ufl.edu)**

RECOMMENDED GENERAL CARE PRACTICES

WATER only when the grass turns grayish, indicating wilt. Then water thoroughly. Measure water applied with a rain gauge in sprinkler pattern. Apply 1/2 inch before turning off the water.

MOW regularly, at least every 10 days. Keep the mower blade very sharp so it won't tear the ends of the grass blades. Mow centipede no lower than 1 1/2 - 2 inches. Mow St. Augustine no lower than 3-4 inches. Mow bahia at 3-4 inches. The mowing height of zoysia depends on the type of zoysia. Mow all grasses higher in shaded areas.

FERTILIZE moderately. Centipede, especially does not like being over-fertilized. One April application and sometimes a second August application is all the fertilizer you probably need to apply to centipede. St. Augustine and other grasses may have two or more applications from April through early September. Fertilize less if you want lower maintenance. A 15-0-15 or 15-5-15 fertilizer can be used. A soil test mailing kit can be obtained through your UF county extension office to determine which of these is best for your site. Make sure half of the nitrogen (7.5% in a 15-0-15) is slow-release or water-insoluble nitrogen. Only apply 6 pounds of the fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of lawn area. On centipede, even consider reducing the rate to 3 to 4 pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet in the spring and making a second application at the same rate in August. Ferrous sulfate (2 oz in 3-5 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet) or a chelated iron source at labeled rates can be used to reduce yellowing without stimulating excessive grass growth. Never lime unless a soil test indicates the need to do so.

WEED CONTROL PRODUCTS may harm your lawn and other landscape plants under certain conditions and/or if applied incorrectly. Concentrate more on growing healthy grass than on killing weeds and you'll have fewer weeds. Weeds are primarily opportunists that take hold when the grass isn't growing well.



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