

The Sunbelt Times

The latest news, tips & tricks, and more.



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Winter Sod Tips

While we may not get the full seasonal changes that most areas get this time of year, our Floridian climate will change enough to upset our native plants. Once the weather regularly dips below 60 degrees at night, sod will begin to go dormant. If you properly prepare for this change, then it's easy to keep your grass healthy for its comeback in the spring.

To prepare properly, it's important to rake out any material that may be lingering including thatch, leaves, moss, etc. Make sure to remove all weeds - you may need to spot treat with a weed killer for particularly pesky weeds. Use an aerating tool (a spike wheel is a great option). Apply fertilizer to nourish the sod through this time (continued on page 2).



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TO LEAVE US A REVIEW

Winter Sod Tips

Throughout the winter months, you should expect sod to turn brown. This doesn't mean it's dead - it just dormant. Continue caring for it throughout these months & once we experience weather that brings temperatures above 60 degrees at night on a regular basis, sod will start to green back up. Once we experience a frost, expect color loss (if you haven't lost color already). Many varieties of sod leaving the farm will be brown in the coming weeks & months as we experience cooler temperatures and frost on the ground.

If you have concerns about your established sod, please contact a maintenance professional. If you have concerns about new sod arriving on-site to be installed, please ask us about it as soon as the sod arrives on-site so we can address any concerns immediately.



holiday hours

In honor of Christmas, we will be closed
Friday, Dec. 22 - Tuesday, Dec. 26

We will be open normal business hours
Wednesday, Dec. 27 - Friday, Dec. 29

In honor of New Year's Day, we will be closed
Monday, Jan. 1





Hillsborough County Updated Water Restrictions

In a recent mailing from Hillsborough County, they address Temporary Watering Restrictions beginning 12/01/2023. According to this mailing:

“Temporary Watering Days and Hours in Hillsborough County Take Effect Dec. 1, 2023.

These restrictions apply to all residents in Hillsborough County - not just customers of Water Resources - and most water sources, including private wells and ponds or lakes that are used as alternate irrigation supplies. Reclaimed water customers may irrigate any day of the week before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., although these customers are encouraged to use only what is needed.

Due to a lack of rain, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has issued temporary watering restrictions for all Hillsborough County residents beginning Dec. 1, 2023.

- All watering must be done in **one of the allowed watering periods** on your designated day:
 - All watering must be done before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. on your designated day.
- Irrigation of established lawns and landscapes is limited to **one day a week** on the following schedule:
 - Addresses ending in 0 or 1 on Mondays
 - Addresses ending in 2 or 3 on Tuesdays
 - Addresses ending in 4 or 5 on Wednesdays
 - Addresses ending in 6 or 7 on Thursdays
 - Addresses ending in 8 or 9 on Fridays
 - Common areas with or without street addresses, locations with no addresses, and locations with mixed addresses (such as office complexes and shopping centers) on Fridays

Find more information on water restrictions at [HCFLGov.net/WaterRestrictions](https://www.hcflgov.net/WaterRestrictions).

For a recorded message about the restrictions or questions for the Water Conservation Team, call (813) 663-3295.



Sunbelt Sod

COOKBOOK

CHRISTMAS TREE COFFEE CAKES

INGREDIENTS

Dough:

- 1 pkg dry yeast
- 1/4 c warm water
- 1/2 c butter
- 1 1/2 c scalded milk
- 1/2 c sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 t salt
- 6-7 c flour

Filling:

- 1 c sugar
- 4 t cinnamon
- 1/2 c mini chocolate chips
- 3 T melted butter

Topping:

- Green & Red sanding sugar
- Red Hots
- Extra filling

DIRECTIONS

Dough:

- Soften package of yeast in warm water
- Melt butter in scalded milk & cool to lukewarm
- When cool, add yeast mix to milk/butter mix & mix well
- Add sugar, eggs, and salt until combined
- Add flour 1 c at a time - you want your dough to be stiff, but not so stiff that it's not malleable
- Knead dough on counter for 5-7 minutes
- Place into bowl and cover with towel to rise for 1-2 hours
- Punch dough down and let rise for another 30 minutes under cloth

Trees:

- Separate dough into 3 balls
- Roll out into tree shape (triangle)
- Brush generously with melted butter
- Fill with thin layer of filling mixture
- Fold sides of dough in and bottom up
- Flip tree onto cookie sheet & cut leaves & twist
- Brush top with melted butter and decorate with filling mix, sprinkles & red hots
- Bake at 350 for 25-30 min