

## **GARDENING BY THE MOON**

### **WATERING OF TURF TO PREVENT DISEASE**

**Submitted by**

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I was on site at Wolf Ranch last week and in driving the neighborhoods, I saw many front yards being over-watered. Last year, many of you had problems with overwatering causing Pythium disease on your turf. Pythium causes irregular dead areas throughout your entire lawn once temperatures start to heat up. This means that June, July, August and September will be the prime times for this disease to engulf your lawn. If you continue to overwater, this disease can cause your entire lawn to die.



Now is the time to take preventative measures to avoid this disease. There is nothing you can do about the hot weather, but you can prevent overwatering the turf. Monitor your watering closely. The average rainfall in Georgetown is 36 inches per year. Operate your irrigation on “manual” until turf has dried out. I prefer to run my irrigation on “manual” at all times when I am home so I can control the amount of water applied and I only use automatic if I am going to be away from home for a period of time. But when setting for automatic, set so water is applied in the early morning hours. This gives the sun all day to dry out the grass before nightfall. Late night watering favors the disease because turf is wet. Set your irrigation to run as per the schedule provided by Wolf Ranch but always take rain into consideration when operating the irrigation system automatically.

If disease is present in your lawn, even with control, the brown areas will not improve until the next growing season. The best control is water management so start now before hot temperatures arrive and monitor your watering closely.