**Q’s & A’s**

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**Q**: Which variety is the best Zoysia grass? All of them are attractive and seem to make a tight sod.

**A**: I think Emerald Zoysia is the most attractive. With a texture like steel wool, however, it is one of the most difficult to mow. Overall, the thicker-bladed El Toro and Jamur are probably the best choices.

Zoysia has some shade tolerance, excellent traffic tolerance and makes a tight sod. Mow it at 2 inches tall. Zoysia requires just as much water as St. Augustine to stay green but it can go dormant in a drought. It will recover quickly when the rain returns.

**Q:** What pecan variety would you recommend for a lawn tree? We have a large lot and deep soil.

**A**: My favorite pecan is Pawnee. It is relatively small and well-shaped. It produces an early crop and seems to cope well without irrigation. Pawnee also seems resistant to aphids. No honeydew on the car or driveway!

**Q**: Our Swiss chard still looks good and tastes good. Is ours exceptional or does all Swiss chard last this long into the spring?

A: Swiss chard is usually the longest-lasting green crop. Often a month or more after lettuce, spinach, mustard and collards have declined or gone bitter, it is still producing an edible green.

**Q**: What can we grow in the shade for summer color?

**A**: Consider begonias, coleus or caladium. Impatiens are not on my list because they are so sensitive to heat even in deep shade and with plenty of water. Coleus may even be deer proof. It appears on deer-proof lists. Use Liquid Fence once a week for new plantings even if the plants are not preferred by deer. Their curiosity often drives them to pull out new plants just to taste.

**Q**: Is it too late to fertilize our lawn?

**A**: No, now is the best time for our hot weather grasses. If you have mowed real grass two times, it indicates that the roots are capable of collecting the nitrogen.