



FAQ –

1.) Q. Why are Lawn, Landscape and Pest Control companies still operating with federal, state and local “lockdown” “shutdown” “business essential” and “life sustaining essential” orders in place?

A. Based on an excerpt from NALP (National Association of Landscape Professionals); Although the various iterations of language included in orders, it is clear that “lawn and landscape services are essential and life sustaining.” See below list for some state and local list of provisions that include landscape services:

- a. Maintenance workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operations of residences
- b. Support, such as line clearing, highway median clearing, mowing and weed maintenance to ensure the availability of needed facilities, transportation, first responders, energy and communication
- c. Repair and Maintenance – personal household goods repair and maintenance service

For the foregoing reasons, lawn and landscape services fall within the description of “essential” and “life sustaining”

- B. Lawn and Landscape professionals are protectors of public health performing essential treatments to lawns and green spaces to reduce the transmission of dangerous and deadly diseases through pests like mosquitos, ticks and fleas. April 1 marks the calendar date where most of the United States begins to see flea and tick activity with mosquito closely following. There more than five new emerging tick and mosquito borne diseases including lyme disease that are expected to emerge in advanced spread mode due to an abnormally mild winter in many areas of the United States. Time critical applications are necessary to ensure control of flea, tick and mosquito.
- C. Lawn and Landscape professionals represent the original “social distant” occupation and do not increase the transmission of COVID-19. The lawn industry is taking aggressive steps within our organizations to stop the transmission of COVID-19. Because our industry functions outside this greatly reduces the chances to come into contact with other individuals. Within the industry, strong policies are being put in place to maintain social distancing with both clients and within our teams that are working I the field.

2.) Why shouldn’t homeowners simply wait for a few weeks when “stay at home” orders have been lifted to resume lawn and landscape services?

A. In addition to the above reasons, the plant health of your lawn depends on a time critical “pre-emergent crabgrass preventative”. The window for this application ends in May depending on geography and from that point forward, few post-emergents

- are effective. When crabgrass infests the turf quality diminishes and once crabgrass dies large unsightly bare patches appear and regaining plant health is difficult.
- B. Because of the current “stay at home” measures, more families are at home enjoying outdoors and it is critical their lawn and landscape is as healthy as possible.
 - C. All but a handful of Lawn and Landscape companies are privately owned small businesses. It is essential to not only the public health and safety of their communities that service continuity be preserved, but also important for the financial health of these small operators in a seasonal peak season.

Every business is unique and federal, state and local municipalities are introducing new business essential orders, mandates and clarifications sometimes daily. It is in the interest of every business owner to carefully evaluate the facts, seek legal counsel for clarification if unsure, and continue to make the best decisions possible for their business, employees and community.