



FALL

There's No Better Time for Fertilization

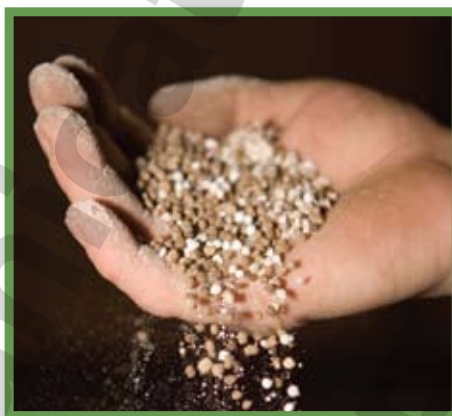
YOUR LAWN, TREES AND SHRUBS WILL ALL BENEFIT!

It's a common misconception that plants stop growing in the fall, when really all that changes is the way in which plants grow. As cooler weather sets in, top growth slows down, with plants shifting their energy from foliage production to root expansion. In preparation for winter, your lawn, trees and shrubs strive to fill their expanded root systems with as many nutrients as possible. You can help this process along by making sure they get a heavy dose of fertilizer.

LAWNS PREFER A FALL FEAST OVER A SPRING SMORGASBORD

Your lawn needs regular fertilization throughout the growing season, with the heaviest feeding taking place in the fall rather than the spring. Too much spring fertilizer can cause an unhealthy flush of growth that leaves turf more susceptible to insect and disease problems. It's likely to make extra mowing necessary as well.

A heavy fall fertilization, on the other hand, promotes a thicker, stronger root system rather than excessive top growth. This will lead to a greener, more vigorous lawn when spring returns.



Fertilizer for lawns, trees and shrubs does its best work in the fall.



YOUR TREES AND SHRUBS ARE OUT OF THEIR ELEMENT

In their natural woodland habitat, trees and shrubs receive a constant supply of nutrients from soil that is rich in humus (organic matter). This organic matter is constantly replenished by decomposing leaves and other plant parts. In our home landscapes, however, we rake away leaves on a regular basis. This removes our plants' natural nutrient supply. And since ornamental trees and shrubs are often subjected to unfavorable soil and environmental conditions, the need for fertilizer in home landscapes becomes even greater.

With a heavy application of fertilizer in the fall, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are delivered to tree and shrub roots for improved color, growth, vigor and overall health. Even more importantly, fall fertilization improves your landscape plants' ability to stand up to pests, disease and the effects of drought, dry winter winds and other severe weather.

Remember, your lawn, trees and shrubs can't get carryout. For optimum winter health and better-looking plants in the spring, fall fertilization really delivers!



WHOSE HOUSE IS
THIS ANYWAY?

Like birds heading south for the winter, there will be all sorts of insect pests looking for a warm place to hang their hats as temperatures start dropping this fall. Some of the more common intruders include:

- Ladybugs
- Clover mites
- Boxelder bugs
- Leaf-footed bugs
- Attic and cluster flies
- Elm leaf beetles
- Spiders

Sure, removing insects by hand or with a vacuum cleaner is easy enough, but an even better solution is to prevent them from entering your home in the first place. This can be done by:

- Sealing cracks around windows, doors, dryer vents, siding and utility pipes
- Mending rips or tears in window and door screens
- Closing off spaces between exterior doors and thresholds with door sweeps
- Removing any obvious bugs from houseplants before bringing them inside for the winter



spots where bugs commonly try to get inside. Just think of it like an invisible fence used for dogs, only this barrier will keep things out instead of in!

For an extra layer of protection, you can have a barrier spray applied around the perimeter of your house and to other



Start Planning Now for
Spectacular Spring Bulbs

As long as they're planned and planted correctly, spring bulbs will provide a beautiful color show next year with a minimum of maintenance requirements. In general, the planting window for spring bulbs is from mid-September to mid-October, which gives the bulbs enough time to grow roots before the ground freezes.

CHOOSING A PLANTING SITE

Warmth and bright light are necessary to trigger good growth in the spring. Ideally, the planting site will be sheltered from cold winds, and low-lying areas that tend to collect frost should be avoided. The planting site should also receive lots of direct sunlight, both to encourage spring flowering, and to help the plants manufacture and store food for the following year's growth cycle. Planted in the right spot, bulbs can be expected to return year after year.

PREPARING THE SOIL

Bulbs do best in soil that is rich and well drained. It's always a good idea to remove

rocks and other debris. Then, organic matter can be added to the soil. Peat moss, compost and shredded leaf mulch all work well as soil amendments, and should be worked in to a depth of 10" to 12". Fertilizer can also be added, and should be thoroughly mixed in with the soil and organic matter. A good rule of thumb is to use a handful of fertilizer for every 10 to 12 bulbs.

PLANTING THE BULBS

Bulbs look best in odd-numbered groups or in mass plantings. Planting depths and spacing vary depending on the bulbs being planted (see chart below for guidelines on a few favorites). Bulbs should be planted with the pointed end facing up, and the planting bed should be watered thoroughly once the soil fill has been added back into the planting holes.

After planting, all that's left to do is wait for the beautiful spring blooms to arrive. Enjoy!

BULB	PLANTING DEPTH*	SPACING BETWEEN BULBS
Glory-of-the-Snow	3" to 4"	3"
Crocus	3" to 4"	3"
Hyacinth	6"	6" to 8"
Spring Snowflake	3" to 4"	3" to 4"
Grape Hyacinth	3" to 4"	3" to 4"
Tulips	6" to 8"	4" to 6"
Daffodil	6" to 8"	6" to 8"

*From base of bulb to soil surface.



Answers to photo puzzle on back page:
1. Yellow flower in front planter is missing.
2. Mortar between two bricks in front planter is missing.
3. Hanging basket is missing from column.
4. Evergreen tree has been added behind rear planter.
5. Light-pink tulip is now darker in front planter.
6. Left portion of swag on back brick wall is missing.
7. There is a snake between the first and second planters.
8. Support bar in front umbrella is missing.

Get Your Turf Back on Track

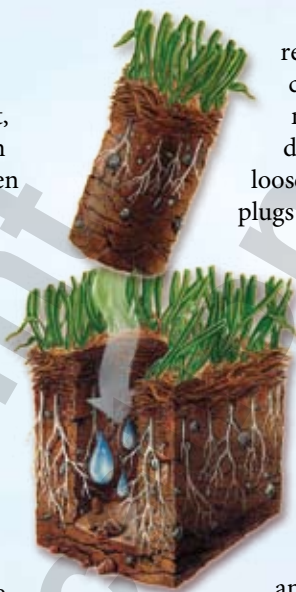
With the arrival of fall, all lawns can benefit from a “pick-me-up” to recover from the stresses of another summer season. On their own or in combination, heat, drought, insects, diseases and increased foot traffic can lead to thinning turf and bare patches where lush, green grass used to be.

A WINNING COMBINATION

Aeration with overseeding is a tried-and-true method of repairing lawns suffering from summer stress. Fall is a great time for this service, since growing conditions are more favorable and there's less competition from weeds. Plus, any new grass planted in the fall will have plenty of time to get established before the taxing summer season returns.

THE PROCESS

The first step is to make several passes over the lawn with a machine known as a core aerator. This machine



removes plugs (or cores) of soil and thatch from the lawn, creating holes through which air, water and fertilizer can more easily travel to the roots. With aeration, a stronger, deeper root system is encouraged; compacted soil is loosened up; and excessive thatch is broken down as the plugs dissolve through rainfall or watering.

Next, the lawn is overseeded by broadcasting new grass seed throughout the turf with a spreader. The holes left behind by aeration will “catch” the seed and provide better seed-to-soil contact for improved germination rates. To ensure successful growth, the soil needs to be kept moist for several weeks after overseeding. If there's no rainfall, regular watering will be necessary.

Lawns that are aerated and overseeded in the fall will be stronger going into the winter months ahead. Plus, they'll be thicker, greener and much better prepared for any challenges next year's growing season throws their way!

Aeration is one of the best things that can be done for your lawn.

Are You Fired Up for Fall?

Cooler nighttime temperatures don't have to put an end to outdoor enjoyment. With a backyard fire pit or fireplace, you can extend the use of your outdoor living space well into the fall and even winter. Depending on your goals and budget, there are all sorts of options in both styles and materials to meet your specific needs.

FIRE PITS

Generally speaking, fire pits are more casual than fireplaces and lend themselves more easily to entertaining. They radiate more heat and can keep more people cozy in chilly weather. If you're looking for portability, free-standing, cast-iron fire pits with wheels can easily be moved out of the way when not in use. Or, if you'd like something more permanent, you might consider an actual pit dug into the ground

with a gravel bottom and natural stones around the perimeter.

FIREPLACES

If you desire a more formal look, fireplaces can be constructed out of brick, stone and even concrete in a variety of colors. Venting hoods, shelves for decorative items and storage space for wood can be incorporated to improve both looks and functionality. For added appeal, the space around an outdoor fireplace can be designed to mimic a comfortable and inviting living room setting. Though they're a bit more costly than fire pits, fireplaces are an excellent way to increase the resale value of your home.

With an outdoor fire pit or fireplace, you'll be providing fire for all to admire!



These are just two of the many options available in fire pit and fireplace construction.





NOTE: This panel prints black and white on 4-page Simple Solution newsletters.

MAKE A BIG IMPACT IN A SMALL SPACE

Planting a tree is one of the best things you can do for both your property and the environment. Even if your space is limited, there are still great choices available. Here are just a few ornamental trees that work well in smaller yards:

Crabapple

Grows to roughly 20' tall. Known for showy flowers and brightly colored fruit.

Eastern Red Bud

Reaches 30' in height, with red twigs and beautiful purplish-pink flowers in the spring.

Hedge Maple

Grows slowly to a mature height of up to 35' and provides dense shade.

American Hornbeam

Can reach 30' in height, with smooth, gray, fluted bark and striking orange-yellow foliage in the fall.



Crabapple Tree

Can You Tell the Difference?

See if you can find the eight differences between the two photos. Answers are on page 2.

