

FALL

A GREAT START FOR NEW GRASS

Whether you're had your lawn overseeded, or have opted for a more extensive lawn renovation, proper care after planting is critical to giving your new grass the best chances for success. Your newly seeded lawn will benefit from the following this fall:

- Enough water to keep the top inch of soil moist at all times. Light watering once a day is recommended. Once seedlings appear, you'll need to keep watering, but not as often (once or twice a week should do the trick).
- Limited foot traffic. Try to avoid walking on newly seeded areas until the new grass has gotten established.
- A balanced starter fertilizer. Applied up to six weeks after the seeding.
- Mowing at normal height (removing no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the grass blade at a time) once the new grass is 4" tall.

With a little tender loving care, you'll be enjoying your beautiful new turf in no time at all!

There's No Need to Settle for a Lifeless Lawn

WHIP IT INTO SHAPE WITH AERATION AND OVERSEEDING

Now that summer's heat is subsiding, your lawn may be looking a little "tired," to say the least. For example, bluish-green coloring or footprints that linger in your lawn are signs of heat and drought stress. If insects or diseases are present, brown patches or chewed grass blades may be visible. Other signs that your lawn needs help are thinning turf or bare spots throughout your yard.

FALL IS A GREAT TIME FOR RENOVATING LAWNS

We encourage you to take full advantage of the favorable growing weather by having your lawn aerated and overseeded this fall. New grass seed will have less competition from weed seeds trying to grow. As the days shorten and temperatures cool down, there will be less heat stress on new turf. Plus, new grass planted this fall will be mature enough by next spring to tolerate any necessary weed control applications.

AERATION IS THE FIRST STEP

Core aeration removes plugs (or "cores") of soil and thatch from your lawn, making more room for air, water and fertilizer to reach the roots. This will encourage a stronger, deeper root system for healthier, greener growth next spring.

The cores left behind will dissolve on your lawn through rainfall or sprinkling. As they dissolve, they will help to break down excess thatch build-up. Heavy thatch can promote fungus disease, provide a home for turf-damaging insects, and make it more difficult for water and fertilizer to reach the root system.

THE NEXT STEP IS TO OVERSEED

Aeration becomes an even more effective tool when combined with overseeding. As grass seed is broadcast over your lawn, the holes left behind by aeration will "catch" some of the seed. This will provide better seed-to-soil contact for more successful germination rates. It's an excellent way to thicken up a thin lawn or add a hardier type of grass to your yard.



With aeration and overseeding this fall, you can look forward to a thicker, greener lawn that stands up much better to hot, dry weather and other stresses.



WINTER LANDSCAPES CAN BE BEAUTIFUL TOO!



Gray skies and gloomy weather are the norm for most of the winter season, but that doesn't mean your property needs to look drab. You can easily add some "cold-weather flair" to your landscape with the right plantings this fall.

There are plenty of plants that will provide attractive colors, shapes and textures throughout the winter months. Consider some of the following:

Evergreens are an obvious choice for keeping things green over the winter. Some tried-and-true favorites include Austrian pine, Douglas fir, white pine and arborvitae.

Winter-blooming ornamental grasses or flowering plants such as heaths, heathers and witch hazel are great for adding a splash of subtle color.

For **colorful berries or winter fruit**, try barberry, cotoneaster, holly or pyracantha.

Eye-catching bark can be found on birch, Chinese elm, paperbark maple, shagbark hickory, sweet gum and sycamore.

Interesting shapes can also add life to your winter landscape. Beech, mulberry, weeping cherry and weeping willow will all stand out.

Regardless of the plants you choose, it's important to make sure they can thrive in the growing conditions on your property. Also, keep in mind that they'll need room to expand as they mature. With the right plants in the right places, your landscape can be a beautiful sight to behold this winter!

"Is Dinner Ready Yet?"

YOU CAN'T BLAME YOUR LAWN, TREES AND SHRUBS FOR ASKING!

It's hard to overstate how important it is to fertilize your lawn, trees and shrubs, especially during the fall. Most of the plants in your landscape will soon be shifting into dormancy, with top growth slowing down or stopping altogether. Underground, however, they'll still be very active.

In order to prepare for new growth in the spring, your lawn, trees and shrubs must build new roots and fatten them up with nutrients. You can improve this process by making sure they get a heavy dose of fertilizer in the fall. The stronger and healthier the roots become as a result of proper fall fertilization, the better growth you can expect next year.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS YOU CAN EXPECT FROM FALL LAWN FERTILIZATION INCLUDE:

- Grass blades that stay greener and roots that grow later into the season.
- Better recovery from the stresses of summer heat and drought.
- Increased ability to hold water, which helps grass plants withstand the drying and browning effects of winter winds.
- Improved resistance to some cool-weather fungus diseases due to better overall plant health.
- Thicker green-up in the spring.

BY HAVING YOUR TREES AND SHRUBS FERTILIZED THIS FALL, YOU CAN EXPECT:

- Improved flowering.
- Stronger resistance to insects and disease.
- Better winter color in evergreens.
- Healthier, denser foliage.
- An increase in root mass and root branching.

Remember, fall fertilization of your lawn, trees and shrubs will have a direct effect on the performance of your plants throughout next year's growing season. It's an essential part of protecting and improving your valuable landscape investment.



Party on the Patio!

As the nights grow cooler this fall, there's no need to move the party indoors. There are several options for keeping things warm and cozy outside, well into the night.

PATIO HEATERS

You're probably most familiar with free-standing patio heaters, which are generally about 8' tall, though table-top versions are also available. These heaters are usually fueled by a propane gas tank concealed in the base, but there are also natural gas and electric models depending on your needs and preferences. A good patio heater will enable you to regulate the amount of heat given off. For a reasonable price, you can purchase one that will warm an area 20' in diameter pretty reliably.

FIRE PITS AND FIREPLACES

There's something to be said for burning wood outdoors. Cast-iron fire pits with wheels can easily be moved out of the way when not in use, or you can have a pit dug into the ground if you'd like something more permanent. For a more formal look, consider a brick, stone or concrete fireplace with a venting hood, shelves and even storage space for wood. If you do go with a wood-burning option, make sure there is plenty of space between the fire source and seating for both comfort and safety.

DON'T FORGET THE LIGHTS!

Regardless of the temperature outside, proper lighting is essential for extending the use of your patio into the nighttime hours. Low-voltage exterior light fixtures can provide ample illumination to help you and your guests move about safely. Plus, the low voltage requirements won't drive up your electric bill.



*Heat it up, light it up,
and make your patio
the place to be this fall!*

Try These Bulbs for a Color Explosion!

Thinking about planting bulbs, but not sure what kind you want? Any of these choices will enhance your garden with breathtaking beauty and radiance next season. Mix them up for an unforgettable flower display!

TULIP: Looks great when mixed with annuals or perennials.

RANUNCULUS: Peony-like blooms are 3" to 5" across.

DAFFODIL: Great for cut flowers. Deer resistant.

IRIS: Comes in purple, blue, mauve brown, orange, yellow and white.

IPHEION: Easy to grow, with small, light-blue blooms.

ANEMONE: Single or double blooms with contrasting center color.

IXIA: Tall flowers that look best in groups of 25 or more.



ALLIUM:
*Great for rock gardens
or in a border.*



FREEZIA:
*Comes in a rainbow
of colors.*



HYACINTH:
*Smells as good
as it looks!*



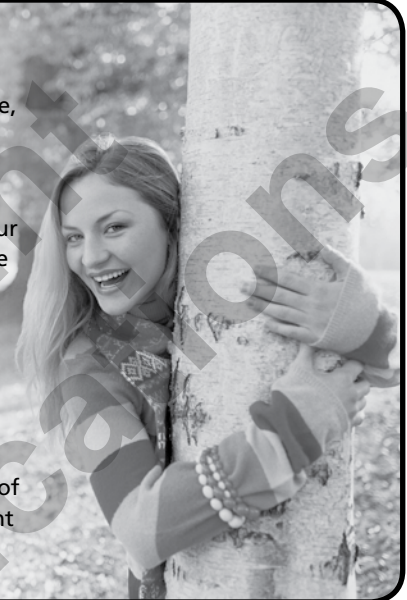
Remember "The Giving Tree"?

Shel Silverstein was really onto something when he wrote this classic tale about a boy and his relationship with a tree. The basic message of "The Giving Tree" rings true: Trees give us so much, without really asking for anything in return.

Studies show that trees in good health help to increase property values. Even undeveloped land that is wooded carries a higher price tag than similar land without tree cover. There are many reasons for this increase in value. The beauty and aesthetic appeal of trees is usually the first one to come to mind. However, trees also provide significant decreases in heating and cooling costs, and can create windbreaks, privacy screens and sound barriers on your property.

To be sure that your trees keep increasing in value, they must be kept in good condition. Regular pruning, fertilization and pest management will all work together to enhance and preserve tree health. Another way to get the most bang for your buck is to get professional help whenever it's time to replace trees or plant new ones. Expert advice and assistance in the selection and placement of new trees will ensure that your plantings grow in beauty and value over the years ahead.

When it comes to the trees on your property, it's worth investing in professional installation and care. Not only can this help to increase the value of your property, but it will improve the environment we all share.



Test Your Knowledge of the Natural World

- 1.) What is another name for a flower's corolla?
- 2.) Ants can carry how many times their own weight?
- 3.) The inside of a cucumber growing on a vine can be how much cooler than the air surrounding it?
- 4.) The largest seed in the plant kingdom comes from the double coconut palm. How much does it weigh?

Extra Credit: What was the first animal to travel to space?

Answers: 1.) Petal 2.) 3 3.) 20 degrees 4.) Up to 60 pounds
Extra Credit: A dog named Laika.

