



NEWSLETTER

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Fall is on our door step...

This year, the autumnal equinox—also called the September equinox or fall equinox—arrives on Tuesday, September 22. Fall begins in the Northern Hemisphere and spring begins in the Southern Hemisphere.

Did you know?

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.



WE WILL
BE CLOSED

LABOR DAY

Fall Lawn Care Tips

1. Remove the leaves

A carpet of vibrant autumn leaves may look nice and be exciting to play in, but they are no good for your lawn. They choke out the light and hold moisture, which can be detrimental for the turf underneath. So when the leaves are falling, blow or rake them away as often as you can. Even after the trees have no leaves left, continue raking out the corners where the wind piles leaves up. If you don't, come spring, the grass under that soggy and decaying mat will be dead.

2. Keep mowing, but at the correct height

Don't store your mower away yet. Grass continues to grow up until the first hard frost, and so will need regular cuts to keep it at an ideal 3"-3.5" height. If you let it get too long, it will mat and be vulnerable to fungi like snow mold. Cutting grass too short is just as bad, because it restricts the root system—root depth is proportional to cutting height—and hinders the lawn's ability to endure winter cold and dryness. Regular mowing also gets rid of those pesky leaves, cutting them up and leaving behind organic soil-enhancing mulch.



Fall Lawn Care Tips (Continued)

3. Continue Watering

Many people tend to let up on watering in the fall as the weather gets cooler. They figure that nature will take care of things for them. While it's true that there's more rain, more dew, and less evaporation at this time of year, that may not be enough to keep the grass roots well hydrated and healthy going into the winter.

If your lawn isn't getting at least an inch of water a week—a simple rain gauge is a useful way to keep track—then keep the sprinklers or irrigation system running until the end of October.

4. Aerate your lawn

Regular aeration prevents soil from becoming compacted and covered with thatch, a thick layer of roots, stems, and debris that blocks water, oxygen, and nutrients from reaching the soil. A core aeration corrects both problems by punching holes through that thatch and pulling up plugs of soil.

5. Fertilize

Fall is a great time to fertilize your lawn. Grass is in recovery from the long hot summer and drought induced dormancy. A shot of nitrogen is what your lawn needs to push blade growth. Fall fertilizing also helps strengthen your lawn for the upcoming winter and boosts recovery time for the spring.

6. Spread Seed

Overseeding existing turf and bare patches this fall can give you a thick and healthy lawn next season. Fall is the best time to overseed because the ground is still warm, moisture is more plentiful, nights are cool, and the sun is not as hot during the day.

7. Stay on schedule

Each of the steps above has to be done at the right time for best results. Otherwise, it's wasted effort. For instance, overseed too late and the seedlings will be too delicate to survive. Fertilize too early and the grass will send up tender blades that will get hammered by the cold. Fertilize too late and the grass roots won't be able to absorb all those nutrients you're feeding them. Thinking about aerating in the spring because you can't get around to it this fall? Don't bother. Spring aeration just makes it easier for weed seeds to get established.

Entrusting one or two of those tasks to a pro during this busy season will ensure the work gets done when it should—and that you will be loving a thick carpet of green grass next year.

Services to be scheduled

- **Irrigation Winterization** – Now is the time to make sure you are on the schedule for winterizing your irrigation system.
- **Lawn Installations/Seeding** – Again, fall is the best time for lawns to recover and new grass to be planted. Has the summer heat thinned your lawn? Do you have a lot of bare spots? Do you need a new lawn installed?
- **Landscape and Tree Installations** – Fall not only provides the perfect conditions for planting grass, but also the perfect conditions for planting trees, shrubs, and perennials. Fall planting offers a number of advantages over spring planting. When the air temperatures become cooler than the soil, new top growth slows, allowing plants to focus their energy on root development. The moisture from fall rains also helps establish strong root systems.

Call our office today and ask about our fall services and how we can help prepare your lawn and landscape for the upcoming winter.