

L FALL SEASONAL TIPS

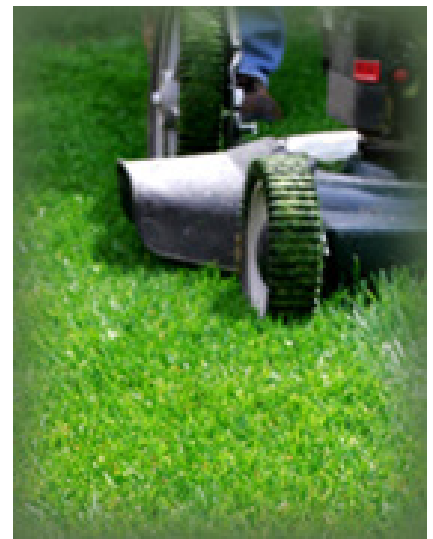
SEPTEMBER



- If you are utilizing our organic fertilization program, you should be done with the 4th of 6 applications. Take advantage of a good rainfall to get that fertilizer down to the root zone where it can be used.
- If you are still considering putting in a new lawn or replacing your existing lawn, this is the last month to place seed. From October through March, your only other successful option will be the installation of a sod lawn.
- This month, anything can be planted and most plants can be transplanted. Perennials, shrubs, and trees that you held off planting in the summer will do just fine now. Stay away from transplanting bigger plants for now. Wait until the weather cools and we get a little more rain.
- You can stop watering your vegetable garden if your plants are in the ground. Let your fruits and vegetables ripen up.
- Try to get finished up on your pruning. The snow and ice are a couple months out, but properly pruned plants and trees will handle the harsh weather much better.
- Don't pull your annuals yet. There is still a lot of bloom left in them if you keep the old flowers cut back.
- Keep up the composting. All the pruning of shrubs and flowers along with falling leaves make great compost. Make sure to keep that compost pile moist.

OCTOBER

- You will need to continue to maintain your lawn on your regular schedule this month. If you have a broadleaf weed issue in the turf, now is a great time to take care of that. Lower the mowing height 1 to 2 notches from the summer height. Cutting shorter at about 1 1/2" to 2" will help reduce disease activity.
- Your perennials are now ready to be cut to the ground. Be sure to throw them in the compost pile.
- Roses should be pruned down to waist height high to protect them from wind in the winter and then prune them again in February for the final winter pruning.
- Late in the month pull your hanging baskets and prepare them for winter. Geraniums and fuchsias can be stored indoors or in a protected area for use next spring.
- Time to plant winter color. Pansies in bloom will bloom for the entire winter if the temperature doesn't get too low. This is a great way to keep color in your yard the entire year.
- You can still move your iris, but this is the last month. Cut the tops back 6 to 8 inches from the ground and really break up the plant before replanting.
- By mid-October, your irrigation system can be shut down. You can drain the system or give us a call and we can provide a forced air winterization to guarantee your system from freeze damage.
- Compost all the leaves and any other plant material that will decompose.



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NOVEMBER



- Mulching around tender plants can prevent winter damage. Do not shear your pines this time of the year. To survive, they must have good needles at the ends of their branches.
- If your irrigation system isn't off by now, get it turned off and either winterize it yourself or call in an expert to have it done.
- Place dirt or soil over the first 6 inches of your rose bushes which will keep that part of the plant from freezing. Roses should be pruned down to waist height or a bit shorter by mid-month.
- Any plant material with large leaves should be tied up so ice cannot damage it.
- All annuals should be removed and thrown on the compost pile. All perennials should be cut to the ground and the dried tops placed in the compost.
- Thin or bare spots in your lawn should be reseeded and mulched over. By spring those areas should be filled in with grass.
- Be sure to put away or unhook your outside hoses and turn off all of your outside faucets to protect them from the winter cold.
- Be careful to not walk on your turf when it is frozen. It can break the grass blades and damage your lawn.
- Get your bulbs in the ground by the end of November for flowers in March and April.
- Keep the leaves raked up weekly at a minimum.
- Make your last mowing of the lawn by the end of the month. Cut it one notch shorter at about 1 1/2". This will decrease disease and winter damage. Leaving the grass long through the winter months can create damaged areas from matted and molding grass blades as we go into spring.