

*Fall 2009*

weekender

NEWS AND HOW TO'S FOR GREATER OUTDOOR ENJOYMENT

Fertilize This Fall Against Crabgrass Next Spring



It's an unfortunate fact of life that crabgrass seeds will always be present in your soil. When spring arrives, these ugly, grassy weed seeds will be germinating in lawns all over your neighborhood. Scotts LawnService® can make it harder for crabgrass to grow in your lawn with a Scotts Halts® pre-emergence treatment next spring. But to give your turf an even better head start in fighting off stubborn crabgrass, fall fertilization will make a huge difference.

Fall Fertilization Has Many Advantages

In the fall, top growth slows down in your lawn as your grass plants start focusing on building up their root systems and nutrient reserves. These reserves will be used for new growth when spring arrives. Providing your lawn with larger doses of fertilizer in the fall fits perfectly with nature's normal cycle. Your lawn will make more efficient use of fertilizer in the cooler autumn weather than at any other time of year.

The three primary nutrients in fertilizer each serve a specific function. Nitrogen is used in large amounts to promote color and top growth. Phosphorus stimulates root development. And potassium helps grass plants to resist disease and retain water.

Fertilization during the fall season is crucial for turf growth, and a heavy application of Scotts® professional, slow-release fertilizer will provide your lawn with a wealth of benefits. When fertilized in the fall, your turf will be less susceptible to disease while exhibiting improved recovery from the stresses of summer heat and drought next year. In addition, fall fertilization will lead to earlier, richer greening in the spring.

And best of all, fall fertilization will lead to a thicker lawn that keeps the soil shaded next spring. Since weed seeds thrive in hot, sunny weather, the shaded soil will make it more difficult for any existing crabgrass seeds to grow.

Remember, we're here to help you win the war on crabgrass. Fall fertilization can help to protect your lawn from this dreaded pest while giving you thicker, greener grass. If you haven't yet scheduled your Scotts LawnService fall fertilization, give us a call today at 1-888-872-6887.

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- Core Aeration
- Bulb Planting Tips
- Tree & Shrub Care
- Tips on Pruning
- Cooks Corner Recipes

▶ Click here to go online:
scottslawnservice.com



Core Aeration Treat Your Lawn Right

Core aeration encourages deeper rooting and helps to break up harmful thatch layers.



Combining core aeration with overseeding and fertilization can result in a thicker, greener lawn

Has the wear and tear of another hot summer left your lawn in need of a makeover? If so, schedule your lawn for fall core aeration.

Though it sounds like a complicated procedure, core aeration is really a very simple way to rejuvenate your turf. During the process, Scotts LawnService® professionals will use an aerator to punch out plugs of soil from your lawn. This will break up root-choking, compacted soil, creating pathways through which air, water and fertilizer can more easily travel to your turf's roots. As a result, the roots will be able to grow stronger and deeper.

After the plugs are removed, they'll be left to dissolve on your lawn during rainfall and watering. Eventually, they'll mix with the thatch layer to help it decompose and break down. This will make it even easier for moisture, oxygen and nutrients to reach your turf's roots, and will help to discourage harmful insects that tend to make their homes among thick thatch layers.

Overall, core aeration is one of the best things we can do for your lawn. The benefits of the process are many, and include:

- Improved turfgrass rooting
- Decomposition of harmful thatch
- Better penetration of moisture, oxygen and nutrients through the thatch layer
- Decreased water run-off for improved drought resistance
- Growth stimulation in old lawns
- Improved turfgrass resilience

With fall core aeration from Scotts LawnService, your lawn will be able to take advantage of good growing weather as it puts down deeper roots for the coming winter and spring seasons. Plus, core aeration can be made an even more powerful growth tool by combining it with overseeding and fertilization. To learn more about these procedures, or to schedule your lawn for fall core aeration, give us a call at **1-888-872-6887** today!

This service is not offered on all lawn types. Please call your local branch to find out if your lawn is suitable for Core Aeration.



Fall is the Time to Plant Your Spring Flowers

Plant bulbs Six weeks before ground starts to freeze

Nothing says spring quite like a daffodil, crocus or tulip. Bulbs can fill your garden with vibrant color from early spring through late summer. They are, in general, very hearty, easy to grow and care for, and will bloom year after year. With just a little care, you can have colorful blooms from your bulbs all through the spring and summer. Daffodils, iris, tulips, gladiolus, hyacinth and daylilies are just some of the many bulb favorites.

Choosing Bulbs

Good bulbs should be firm (avoid signs of rotting or softness), and should not exhibit signs of external damage such as cracks and deep scratches. Avoid bulbs that are already growing shoots or roots. Before planting, keep bulbs stored in a cool, dry location without direct sunlight.

When deciding which type of bulb to purchase, think about timing. Are you looking for color for early spring? Mid-summer? Perhaps you would like several types of bulbs that bloom at different times so that you have color extended throughout spring and summer? Take a look at the chart on the right and ask your nursery or garden store which bulbs are recommended for your area.

Planting Bulbs

As a rule of thumb, bulbs should be planted in the fall (roughly early- to mid-October). You want to get the bulbs in the ground about six weeks before the ground starts to freeze. Plant the bulbs in well-prepared soil. Planting depth is determined by the type of bulb (4" deep for crocus, 6" deep for daffodils and hyacinths, 8" deep for tulips).

Spacing is also determined by the type of bulb. In general, plant bulbs about 4" to 6" apart. If you prefer a more formal look of rows, you may wish to invest in a bulb planter. If you desire a more natural, clumped look, dig a wider hole that can accommodate several bulbs (five to ten) planted together. A small amount of fertilizer can be added at the bottom of each hole, and then covered with a thin layer of soil so that the bulb is not resting directly on the fertilizer. Bulbs should be placed into the hole pointed end up with the flat, rooting side facing down. Cover the holes with soil and give the bulbs a thorough soaking of water. Bulbs are a wonderful way to bring vibrant color to your garden throughout the spring and summer (with minimal effort). With just a little work in the fall, you can enjoy beautiful blooms as early as next spring!



Caring for your Spring Bulbs



Annual bulbs are classic additions to a home landscape. When you plant bulbs for spring, you give yourself the gift of great expectations. All winter long you wait for what will come and then one day in early spring, you are rewarded with green sprouts breaking through the soil. When you plant your bulbs, make sure you know the mature height of the different bulb types so taller blooms do not cover the shorter blooms.

Follow the tips below and enjoy a beautiful spring garden.

Where to plant.

If left up to the bulbs themselves, most would ask to be planted in an area that provides both sun and shade. Ideally, the area would have shade during the hottest part of the day. This extends the life of the blossoms, so you can enjoy their spring color as long as possible.

It's wise to avoid areas that have deep shade all day long, because the leaves need some sunlight to create the carbohydrates needed to provide vibrant blooms the next season. Exposed to constant shade, the plants perform less satisfactorily year after year.

They don't like wet feet!

It's a good idea to select a planting area that is well drained. If you live in an area that has heavy clay soil, your bulbs will do best if you add some good-quality garden soil (not top soil) and sphagnum peat moss to the bed, then work it into the soil. If this is not an option, you can make each planting hole a bit oversized, then fill them with a mixture of planting soil and peat moss when the bulbs are set.

Bulb depth is important.

Not all bulbs should be planted at the same depth. Smaller bulbs, which are planted in shallow holes, can be planted at the same depth (regardless of the type of soil in the bed). The chart to the right shows this clearly for bulbs such as crocus and grape hyacinth.

Larger bulbs, such as tulip, daffodil and hyacinth, should be planted as much as two inches shallower in heavy soils than in light soils. Tulips, for example, can be planted at a depth of around five inches (to the bottom of the bulb) in heavy clay soil.

The same bulbs, however, should be planted at a depth of around seven inches in light soils. Following these simple guidelines will pay off handsomely year after year.

Nutrition.

Some gardeners prefer to use bone meal, mixed into the dirt at the bottom of the planting holes. Others prefer a balanced-formula bulb food that contains all three of the major nutrients – nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

Your neighborhood Scotts retailer can help you choose the right nutritional products for your needs. If you have questions about the differences, the store's lawn and garden specialists can answer your questions. They can also help you select the right Miracle-Gro® soil additives.

Early-Spring Blooms:

- Chionodoxa (Glory of the Snow)
- Galanthus (Snowdrop)
- Eranthis (Winter Aconite)

Mid-Spring Blooms:

- Hyacinthus (Hyacinth)
- Muscari (Grape Hyacinth)
- Narcissus (Daffodil)
- Tulipa (Tulip)
- Crocus (Crocus)
- Anemone (Windflower)
- Scilla (Bluebell)

Late-Spring Blooms:

- Allium (Allium)
- Convallaria (Lily of the Valley)
- Sparaxis (Harlequin Flower)
- Trillium (Wood Lily)

Early-to-Mid-Summer Blooms:

- Gladiolus (Sword Lily)
- Iris (Iris)
- Dahlia (Dahlia)
- Hemerocallis (Daylily)
- Lilium (Lily)
- Ornithogalum (Star of Bethlehem)
- Acidanthera (Peacock Flower)
- Crocsmia (Montebretia)
- Ranunculus (Persian Buttercup)

Late-Summer Blooms:

- Amaryllis (Belladonna Lily)

Autumn Blooms:

- Colchicum (Meadow Saffron)

Preparing your Tree & Shrubs for Winter

Now is the time to schedule your winter treatment

Root zone fertilization*

Right now, your trees and shrubs are focused on building up their root systems to store food reserves. Fertilizer applied to your trees and shrubs in the fall is converted into stored food, and this food is kept in their expanded root systems to be used for future spring growth.

With root zone fertilization, a Miracle-Gro® Professional Tree & Shrub Care Specialist can inject the proper amount of timed-release fertilizer directly into the root zones of your landscape plants. This method of fertilization can promote better distribution of nutrients throughout the soil, so the roots can absorb the nutrients more quickly and efficiently. When spring arrives, you can look forward to better-blooming, more vigorous trees and shrubs.

The worst of summer's hot, dry weather is behind us, making this the perfect time for a lawn and landscape review. And, this is also the time to schedule root zone fertilization for your trees and shrubs. Scheduling for our annual inspections has already begun, and our calendar is filling up fast, so please call us at **1-888-872-6887** to schedule your inspection today.

**Service not available in all areas. Please check with your local office for more information.*

OUR PROFESSIONAL MIRACLE-GRO®
FEEDINGS, APPLIED DIRECTLY TO THE
ROOT ZONE, DELIVER BETTER RESULTS...
EVERY TIME.



Scotts LawnService is committed to helping you increase the beauty and overall value of your landscape. One of the ways we can do this is by performing an annual inspection of your lawn, trees and shrubs.

We want to make sure that the services we're providing are meeting your landscape's unique needs. During our inspection, we'll check carefully for symptoms of insect and disease damage, fertility problems and any other signs that your lawn and landscape plants can use our help. We'll also look for any potential tree hazards, and we'll make recommendations based on all of our findings.

Winter will be here before you know it, and the trees and shrubs on your property can use your help to get ready for the upcoming dormant period. With antidesiccant treatments and root zone fertilization during the fall, your trees and shrubs will emerge from the winter better prepared for next year's growing season.



To schedule service for your
trees and shrubs:
**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL
SCOTTS LAWN SERVICE BRANCH
FOR HELP**

Or, For more information about
Tree & Shrub care:

**Click here for
customer service**



Proper Pruning is Essential for Healthy Growth

Pruning helps improve a plant's appearance



Trees and shrubs in virtually every suburban landscape require pruning at some point. While the reasons for pruning vary from plant to plant, one thing is certain - the right pruning can go a long way toward improving the health and appearance of your trees and shrubs, especially where flowering plants are concerned.



Why prune anyway?

- To improve a plant's appearance and help it keep the right shape.
- To prompt new growth. Plants respond to pruning by growing. Pruning also maximizes flowers and fruit. Pruning is very important for newly transplanted trees and shrubs, since it helps to balance foliage to what the roots can support.
- To increase the plant's health by removing dead, diseased or insect-infested wood.
- To increase the flow of air and light to inner branches (this helps to prevent disease).
- For safety. Pruning removes weak, diseased or dead branches that could fall and hurt people or damage property.

When is the best time to prune?

This is a frequently asked question; the answer varies depending on the kind of plant and when and where flowers appear.

If blooms grow on shoots from the current season, like many kinds of roses do, you need to prune before the plant blooms. If blooms grow on wood from the previous year (like the forsythia), or on wood that is two or more years old (like the apple tree), you need to prune immediately after blooming. It's important to prune these plants before buds set for the next season.

Never top a tree!

Topping is the complete removal or cutting back of large branches in mature trees, leaving behind big, open wounds. Usually done to reduce the size of a mature tree, topping is extremely harmful. This practice encourages disease, removes important food-producing leaves, weakens existing branches and permanently disfigures trees.

Give us a call with any questions. We want to help ensure that your trees and shrubs are pruned the right way!



Remove Leaves Before Winter

It's great to have big shade trees in your yard. But, come fall, you can start to resent them. Those big trees drop leaves, and that means extra work, hassle, and lost time. It is important to remove leaves and debris from your lawn prior to winter as they will cause bare spots when spring arrives. In addition, removing the falling leaves from the lawn allows your lawn to absorb the winter sunlight. A recent study done at Michigan State University shows that you can forget about raking, blowing, and bagging leaves. Instead, just mulch them with your lawn mower it'll save you work, improve your soil, and add nutrients.



Feed the Birds for More Fall Color!

Fall is a season of change for all of nature, including wild birds. As temperatures cool, natural food supplies become less abundant. Birds begin to seek alternative food sources, like feeders, making fall the perfect time to feed wild birds.

As you prepare your yard for cooler weather, help the wild birds in your area by considering these simple tips:

- Fill feeders with premium wild bird food rich in fat and protein
- Try hanging suet, an excellent source of energy
- Provide a source of fresh, unfrozen water

With the highest-quality seeds, fruits, and nuts, **Scotts Songbird Selections** gives wild birds the energy they need as they prepare for the cooler seasons. Wild birds will recognize your feeders as a food source even after the weather turns. Attracting these colorful, musical birds will bring even more beauty and variety to your yard this fall and throughout winter.



Scotts
Songbird
SELECTIONS®

For retailer information, visit www.scottswildbirdfood.com.



▶ [Click here to find out more about our wild bird food.](#)

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and save
\$30

Planting Tips

DO NOT OVERPLANT.

Knowing the mature heights and widths of plants will save you the trouble of dealing with an overcrowded landscape down the road.

AVOID OVERCLUTTERING.

Lots of trees and shrubs may seem like a great idea, but too many could make watering, mowing and general maintenance more difficult than it needs to be.

CHOOSE SHRUBS THAT ARE THE RIGHT SIZE FOR YOUR HOME

Certain shrubs may block windows and other architectural features when full-grown. Dwarf shrubs are always a good idea, and require less pruning.

MAKE SURE PLANTS AREN'T TOO CLOSE

Find out the mature width of the plant, cut that in half and add a foot. This is the distance the plant should be kept away from the house in order to maintain an attractive landscape setting.

AVOID TOO MANY BRIGHT COLORS.

Too much color can overwhelm the eye, leading to a lack of focus in your landscape.



Try this Summer's Word Search

T S O A N E W I P H O C B T H T
 G H O W L L A L R I S U B D P C
 T S A S H I F B T I L L E R S O
 L L U T R N A E U B S U U H X A
 E Z R C C N U T R I E N T S A L
 I F L E O H U O F T E N L S S L
 O M I S N R A W G I I P K E S F
 M T O N F D C L R C N L S M A O
 U D S I L L Y R A M A U I O R L
 I A A E S L O Y S T M G E Z G I
 L F A D O T H W S M O S M I E A
 I F L A O S U T E R X O R H U G
 L O T H G U O R D R Y T R R L E
 E D S S E O U A E N G E S L B E
 R I A E R A T I O N E D R A G N
 P L A N T S U N H G N I T E S A

crocus

broadleaf

fertilize

hyacinths

lilium

plants

rhizomes

soil

tillers

aeration

bulb

flower

insects

moisture

plugs

root

summer

tulip

amaryllis

daffodil

foliage

iris

nutrients

prune

rootstalks

sun

turf

bluegrass

drought

garden

lawn

oxygen

rain

shade

thatch

turfgrass



cook's corner

Sunrise Smoothie Rosiland Harris

INGREDIENTS

1 cup of pineapple juice

1 cup vanilla low fat yogurt or frozen yogurt

1 cup fresh strawberry or frozen strawberry partially thawed

2 ripe, medium bananas, peeled

DIRECTIONS

Combine pineapple juice, yogurt, strawberries and bananas in blender or food processor container. Cover, blend until smooth.

Garnish with fresh fruit, if desired



Mixed Vegetable Casserole

INGREDIENTS

1 large pkg. frozen mixed vegetables

1 cup grated Parmesan cheese or shredded Monterey Jack & Cheddar

1 cup mayonnaise

1 cup chopped celery

1 med. onion chopped

1 stick margarine

1 tube Ritz crackers, crumbled

DIRECTIONS

Cook vegetables according to pkg directions until just tender. Put in greased casserole leaving at least 1 inch to add topping. Next mix onion, celery, cheese & mayo. Spread mixture over veggies. Melt margarine & mix w/cracker crumbs. Sprinkle on top.

Bake at 350° for 30 min.

Shrimp on the Grill Joe Dolan

INGREDIENTS

**30 - 40 large shrimp
Peeled and deveined**

**1 large bottle Frank's
Louisiana Hot Sauce**

1 stick of Butter

**1 pkg of
hickory
smoked bacon
Toothpicks**

DIRECTIONS

Pour the bottle of Franks into a 9 x 12 Pyrex dish.

Melt the stick of butter and mix together. Hold aside.

Slice the bacon strips into thirds.

Wrap the bacon around the shrimp with a toothpick.

Marinate in the sauce for 3-5 hours (covered).

Place the shrimp on the grill and let sear.

When the shrimp turns to pink and firm, remove.

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