



Fall Lawn Care

Fall is the most important season for lawn care – take care of it now, and your lawn will have fewer weeds, and a stronger, thicker turf next spring! Cool temperatures, regular rainfall, and active grass growth make it the ideal time to strengthen your lawn before winter.

1. Leaf Management

- Rake regularly, or mulch leaves with your mower so they don't smother grass.
- Mulched leaves break down and return nutrients to the soil.

2. Aeration (Optional, but Helpful)

- If your soil is compacted (common in high-traffic areas), core aeration helps water and nutrients reach the roots.
- Best done in early fall.

3. Topdressing

- Improves soil structure, help break up clay, improves soil biology.
- Add organic matter (compost or triple mix) evenly over the lawn, no more than 1/4" deep.
- Turf Shark granular compost is the easiest to apply using a fertilizer spreader.

4. Over-seeding

- September is the *best* time to over-seed with cool-season grasses (Kentucky bluegrass, fescue, perennial rye).
- Over-seeding thickens turf and naturally suppresses weeds.
- Keep soil consistently moist until new grass is established.

5. Fertilizing

- Mid-October - Apply a fall fertilizer high in potassium (look for a "fall" blend) to encourage strong roots and winter hardiness.

6. Weed Control (No Pesticides)

- Spot treat weeds with a domestic herbicide such as "Weed B Gon".
- Hand-pull perennial weeds like dandelions, or spot-treat with natural alternatives (corn gluten meal in spring helps prevent seeds from sprouting).
- Over-seeding is the best natural weed prevention.

7. Pest Control

- Apply Grub B Gon in late summer/early fall for grub control (when larvae are small and vulnerable).

8. Watering

- Grass still needs ~1 inch of water per week in fall (rainfall plus irrigation).
- Mornings are best to water.

9. Mowing

- Mow to a height of 3-3.5 inches - avoid cutting too short—it stresses grass before winter.
- Keep mowing until grass growth stops (usually late October/early November).
- Final mow: 2-2.5 inches tall, to help deter moles and voles in the winter months