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## Late Summer / Early Fall 2023 Newsletter

### *Fall Aeration-Fleas & Ticks-Soil Improvement- Shrub Fertilizing-Lawn Care Tips*

By Buffalo standards, this has been a wet summer. On the plus side, lawns have had great color over this normally very dry time. The need to water was minimal. On the negative side, you had to mow more often since the grass kept growing. The rains encouraged some summer weeds and crabgrass to sprout, and also made the soil more attractive to grub laying beetles and fungus.

The condition of your lawn in mid-late fall determines how thick and healthy it will be the following spring and early summer. That is why the turf experts always say "***lawn season begins in the fall.***" Now is the perfect time to fertilize, improve the soil, seed dead spots, or over-seed the whole lawn.

Today's application was a heavy fertilizing to supply necessary nutrients for this important growth period. If you ordered weed control, that was done as well. *If you didn't order weed control and want some now, please contact us right away. We have some organic options too.*

**Fall is a great time to aerate the lawn.** Our ***Natural (liquid) Aeration*** penetrates more deeply than core aeration. It is far less expensive and is safe for sprinkler systems, invisible wires, vent pipes, and tree roots. It improves water drainage and allows roots to breathe. *A must for our clay soils!*

#### *Benefits of our Natural Aeration:*

- Works deep into the root zone and beyond
- Helps improve fertilizer availability in the root zone
- Provides trace nutrients and bio-stimulants
- Helps generate the soil-improving microbes
- Improves overall plant health
- Improves rooting by both loosening soil deeply
- Helps save water & reduce plant stress and disease
- Less expensive than mechanical aeration
- Reduces soil compaction and loosens clay
- Helps detoxify and buffer chemicals and salts
- Safe to use around sprinklers or in a fertigation system
- Increases earthworm activity
- Improves air and water penetration
- Improves drainage & prevents erosion
- Can be applied any time during the growing season

## FALL AERATION SPECIAL!

Order a **Natural Aeration** and we will give you a **FREE** application of our **Liquid Compost** (soil penetrant) in the same treatment. You will be getting two applications for the price of one!

## Rehabilitate Your Soil This Fall

Improving **clay soil** structure with *Organics* and *Natural Aerations* gives you a healthier, deeper-rooted lawn, with better color and resistance to disease. Improving **sandy soil** with *Organics* will help it hold water and nutrients better, and will encourage thicker, deeper roots too. Here are some things you can do right now to improve the lawn and soil:

**ORGANIC SOIL BUILDER.** Improves all soil types with longer-lasting organic nutrients. Helps give the lawn a deeper green color and better resistance to disease.

**COMPOST BIO-ACTIVATOR.** Soils need to be bio-active in order to form *humus*. Humus helps improve soil structure and make nutrients more available to the roots of the grass. We spread a heavy application of this composted material that *enriches both clay and sandy soils*.

**LIME/CALCIUM.** Especially good for sandier, acidic soils in the Southtowns.

**LAB SOIL TEST RECOMMENDATIONS.** If you have had a soil test performed within the past few years, *you have specific information on how raise deficient soil nutrients and get the pH to proper levels. Late fall is a great time to apply these amendments. If you want to review what you still need, just call the office.*

## FLEAS-TICKS-ANTS

Fall is a prime time for fleas and ticks to find a host. If you want to prevent them from coming into your property you need to start ASAP! There is still time for a few **Organic Flea and Tick** sprays. The same applies to ants and spiders getting into the house in the fall. Create a barrier around the house with **Organic Foundation Pest Control**.

## Fall Fertilizing for Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees

Neglected plants tend to thin out or succumb to pests. They are very expensive to pull out and replace. But a well-fertilized shrub or tree has more vigor, better color, deeper roots, and is more resistant to insects and disease.

A **late fall fertilizing** is probably the best and safest way to get nutrients to your plants. While the top of the plant is dormant, the root zone will be quite active absorbing and storing nutrients well into the winter months. *To help the plants even more, we add some of our liquid aeration solution and beneficial microbes into the fertilizer.* Call today to get a quote on shrub and tree fertilizing. **A heavy fall fertilizing will last a full year!**

## LAWN CARE TIPS

**MOWING:** *Keep the grass fairly high into the early fall* (unless your lawn is mostly bentgrass, which needs to be cut shorter). This will help the grass root deeper, thicken up, and start to build up food reserves in preparation for winter. *Don't start mowing short just because the weather turns cooler. The lawn season is not over yet!*

***When the lawn's growth begins to slow down, that is your signal to begin mowing shorter.*** Gradually lower the mowing height so it is 1 ½ inches or less before winter. Bentgrass lawns can be

cut even shorter. Also, be sure to keep the leaves from matting up on the lawn.

**SEEDING: Seed now!** Early fall is the best time to seed and repair lawns in WNY. If you just want to thicken up thin areas of your lawn you can **over-seed** the area heavily and introduce newer, greener grass varieties with just a little effort. *If you do over-seed the lawn, it is vital to water heavily to get the seed down to the soil, and then keep the soil moist for a few weeks to help the seed root.*

**WINTERIZER.** Most of our customers are scheduled to receive one more fertilizing later in the fall. We call this a “winterizer”, but its main function is to help get the grass get thicker and deeper-rooted next spring. Cornell’s turf advisors recommend this as *one of the three best fertilizings of the year.* **If you are not scheduled for a winterizer and want one, just call or email the office.**

**Have a great fall! We’ll see you on the next round**

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