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Late Summer / Early Fall 2024 Newsletter & Tips

Lawn Season Begins in the Fall

Getting your lawn into great shape before it turns cold in late fall will guarantee a greener, thicker, and healthier lawn next season. Grass wakes up after the summer and has a new period of rooting, growth, and thickening. That is why the turf experts always say “***lawn season begins in the fall.***”

The two most important factors in fall lawn improvement are: 1. *Fertilizing* to stimulate growth; and 2. *Improving the Soil Quality* for more bio-activity and better rooting with improved grass health.

On this round we are taking care of #1 above with a heavy fertilizing to supply necessary nutrients to kickstart the important fall 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 an organic option too.*

In regards to #2, *Improving the Soil Quality*, we have **3 Soil Conditioners** that we have used for 20 years to help improve WNY Soils. A *Soil Conditioner* is an amendment used to improve soil tilth and nutrient availability. You can apply one of them or all of them this fall and help rehabilitate your worn out, clay, or sandy soil.

- 1. ORGANIC SOIL BUILDER.** Improves all soil types with longer-lasting organic nutrients. Helps feed soil-building microbes and gives the lawn a deeper green color with better resistance to disease.
- 2. 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.
- 3. NATURAL AERATION.** Fall is a great time to aerate. 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!*

***FALL SPECIAL ***

ALL SOIL CONDITIONERS 20% OFF

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.**

Finally, don't forget your **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. Fall is a great time to apply these recommended nutrients.*

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

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