

## Fall Lawn Tips to a Healthy, Lush, Green Lawn next Spring

The kids are back to school and the cool autumn breeze is in the air. Now is the time to ensure a lush green lawn in the spring.

**Weed** – Prevent weeds from stealing all the available nutrients and water by eradicating them from your lawn.

**Aerate** - If the thatch layer is too thick, it will affect the health of your lawn. Aerating not only reduces the thatch layer, but it also improves drainage, increases air circulation, minimizes soil compaction, and assists in the uptake of nutrients.

**Bag or mulch your leaves** – Either remove them and bag or mulch them with a mulching blade on your mower. A heavy leaf layer can prevent water, air, and sunlight from penetrating the soil. This can suffocate the grass and breed fungal diseases. Pulverize the leaves into small enough pieces to fall into the turf, allowing grass leaves exposed to the sunlight.

**Seed** – Broadcasting grass seed over your lawn is one of the most important steps to a great lawn come spring. Use a spreader to distribute the seed evenly.

**Water** –Watering right up until the ground freezes ensures the roots of your lawn will have sufficient water regardless of how much snow lies on top of it. Water only when air temperatures are above 40 degrees, and apply during mid-day so it has time to soak in before a possible freeze at night.

**Feed** - Don't let your grass starve going into winter without the proper nourishment the roots need. The roots are still absorbing nutrients and moisture long after your grass appears brown and dormant. Your grass is storing up reserves to make it through the winter.

**Mow** – Cutting too short in fall may cause stress and leaving it too long can mat and promote molds and other diseases in spring along with providing safe haven for unwanted voles and mice. Raise your blades slightly higher than your usual summer height.