

FALL Lawn Care Tips



Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn and control weeds. In fact, healthy lawns help Twin Cities' lakes and streams. Thick grass prevents soil erosion and absorbs rainwater. By soaking up rainwater, lawns decrease the amount of stormwater funneling pollutants into lakes and streams.

TIPS FOR A HEALTHY FALL LAWN:

- ▶ **MOW**—Mow often, leave clippings on lawn and maintain a height of 2-1/2 to 3 inches. This strengthens root systems and retains moisture for a green, resilient lawn.
- ▶ **WATER**—Even though it is cooler in the fall, lawns still need regular watering to maintain plant health to better survive winter conditions. Water until the ground begins to freeze.
- ▶ **FERTILIZE**—Mid- to late October is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn. Fertilizer provides grass with nutrients for spring growth. Use low phosphorous fertilizer. Look for a middle number of 3 or below on the fertilizer package. Water your lawn for 1 to 2 hours after fertilizer application.
- ▶ **CONTROL WEEDS**—September is the best time to treat dandelions, plantain, clover and creeping charlie. Limited numbers of weeds should be removed by hand or spot-treated with herbicide.
- ▶ **SWEEP UP**—Sweep up and reuse lawn care products that fall on streets, side walks and driveways.

TIPS FOR RECYCLING YOUR LEAVES:

- ▶ **COMPOST**—Composting recycles nutrients and helps keep leaves out of streets and storm sewers.
- ▶ **MULCH**—You can use leaves, whole or shredded by a power mower, as mulch.
- ▶ **MOW**—If you have less than 2 inches of leaves covering your lawn, leave them in place and make several passes over them with a power mower. By shredding them into a fine, thin layer, you provide your grass with valuable nutrients. Your lawn looks like it was just raked.
- ▶ **BAG**—Rake and bag your leaves for pick-up by city crews. Some towns compost bagged leaves.