



# 2016 FALL LAWN MAINTENANCE AND WINTERIZATION REPORT

Once fall arrives, turfgrass experts from across the nation unanimously urge lawn owners to waste no time in preparing their lawns for winter, and ultimately, for the following spring.

## THE BASICS

- Fall lawn care promotes good root development, enhances storage of energy reserves and extends color retention in lawns.
- Lawn care begins to change in the fall as your lawn tries to take in as much nutrients and moisture as it can in preparation for the dormant winter months ahead.
- Simple lawn care chores such as reseeding, weeding, aerating and fertilizing help a lawn immensely and show nearly immediate results come spring.

## EXPERT INSIGHTS FOR FALL/WINTER 2016

“Fall is a great time to seed! Lawns with poor density or bare areas will become infested with weeds if you do not add more turf grass. I would suggest a mixture containing perennial ryegrass for quick germination.”

– Alec Kowalewski, PhD, Assistant Professor and Turf Specialist, Oregon State University

“No one type of grass is best suited to all situations. Avoid the trap of letting personal preference and the costs of establishment become the overriding factors in selecting a grass. Your choice of a lawn grass should be based on climate, sustainability, intended use and desired appearance.”

– Daniel Sandor, PhD in Plant Science, University of Arkansas

“It is important to purchase quality grass seed. Make sure the seed was tested in the last six months and check that the germination rate is 85 percent or better.”

– Douglas Karcher, PhD, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science, University of Arkansas

“Soil temperatures need to be greater than 60 degrees for good germination. So, it is generally better to seed a bit early than later.”

– Grady Miller, PhD, Professor of Turfgrass Science, North Carolina State University

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“Have your soil tested. A soil analysis is inexpensive and provides important information about nutrient levels and soil type. Liming, fertilizing and seed selection may all depend on the results of a soil analysis.”

– John C. Stier, PhD, Assistant Dean for College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, University of Tennessee

“Fall is also a great time for aerification or core cultivation. I would suggest using hollow tine core cultivation, pulling small core out of the soil. After you are finished you can top dress with soil, compost or even sand at a ¼ inch depth.”

– Alec Kowalewski, PhD, Assistant Professor and Turf Specialist, Oregon State University

“Start fertilizing grass to promote recovery and growth. Approximately 75% of the annual fertilization of the grass should be applied throughout the fall to extend the green color period and reduce dormancy of the grass.”

– Joseph Young, PhD, Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University

“To apply 1 pound of nitrogen (fertilizer) per 1,000 square feet, divide 100 by the first number on the fertilizer bag to determine the amount of product to be used per 1,000 square feet. Example: Using a 16-4-8 fertilizer, 100 divided by 16 equals 6.25, therefore, 6.25 pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet will deliver 1 pound of nitrogen.”

– Grady Miller, PhD, Professor of Turfgrass Science, North Carolina State University

“In the fall, ¼ to ½ inch per week of water (via rainfall or irrigation) is generally sufficient to meet the turf’s needs.”

– Grady Miller, PhD, Professor of Turfgrass Science, North Carolina State University



**Grass Seed USA is a national coalition of grass seed farmers and academic turf specialists with a wealth of experience in studying, growing and harvesting grass and grass seed. The coalition seeks to inform and educate residential and commercial customers about the benefits of grass and best practices for responsibly growing and maintaining healthy turf.**

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