



The American Lawn
Important news for our Customers and Friends

November 2015
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The Last Mowing of the Season!



Bermudagrass after a hard first freeze

With fall firmly entrenched and winter right around the corner now, [bermudagrass](#) and zoysiagrass are turning brown and slowing down their growth. As soon as we see our first good freeze, the turf will turn totally brown, often with a wavy pattern of green and brown stripes running through the turf. The good news is that if you've not done so yet, one more good mowing should be it for the season, and you can put your mower to

rest until next spring!

With the last mowing on warm-season turf, we recommend mowing a little higher than normal, just topping it off evenly more or less. Don't scalp the turf now, as this removes good dormant turf that would be good insulation for the crown and root system over the winter. [Winterkill](#) is always a concern for turf managers here in the transition zone, so we like to send the turf into winter dormancy as healthy as possible, including a high mowing height. After a dry fall, we've finally received some nice rains, which is good for the root system. Topgrowth is done though, and your turf should not be that green and growing in early November, unless it's been over-fertilized late into fall.

Cool-season turf such as [fescue](#) is still green and growing some, so you'll need to mow a few more times into late fall. Typically fescue is grown in shade, so you'll need to mow or rake leaves as they fall during the next few weeks. Unless the leaves are heavy, one can mow and mulch the leaf debris back into the turf. Bagging the leaf clippings is not a bad idea also, and does allow the green fescue to look really nice into fall, and to receive more beneficial sunlight. Do continue to water fescue seedlings if overseeding was done. And, remove leaves from the turf, as heavy leaves can smother tender seedlings trying to establish in the turf.

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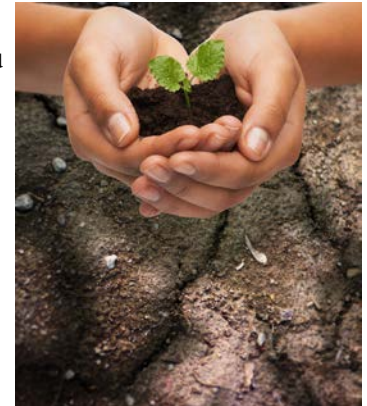
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Before you put your [mower](#) away for the season, drain all the gasoline from the tank and lines, as it can gum up over the winter. In fact, the best thing to do is just do a tune-up on the mower now, by changing the oil, removing gas, maybe replacing the spark plug, and sharpening the blades. Spring is a busy time at the mower shop, and for homeowners, so might as well put that chore behind you so that you can hit the ground mowing next spring!



Fall is a Great Time to Test Your Soil

If you've not had a [soil test](#), fall is a great time for that. We provide this service at LawnAmerica for \$25, or you can take a sample and send to your local university extension office for a small fee also. If you do this yourself, begin by taking a representative sample from several locations in the garden or lawn. Each sample should contain soil from the surface to about 4 to 6 inches deep. This is most easily done with a soil probe, or use a shovel to dig straight down into the soil. Then shave a small layer off the back of the hole for your sample. Mix the samples together in a clean plastic container and select about 1 to 1.5 cups of soil. This can be placed in a plastic container such as a resealable plastic bag. Many extension offices also will provide a soil sample bag.



A soil test determines fertility problems, organic matter content, and soil pH. Often times the test will show a need for nitrogen, which is the nutrient most needed by turf and plants for growth. It depends a lot on the timing of any previous nitrogen fertilization. Nitrogen is utilized by plants or lost into the environment, so this is one reason why consistent fertilization is needed for good turf growth. Phosphorus is usually adequate in local soils, and potassium can be deficient at times. Turf performs best with a soil pH between about 5.8 to 7.2, with 6.5 being ideal. If a soil test shows a low pH with acidic soil of say 5.2, we recommend several lime treatments to help raise the pH. If the soil is too alkaline, above 7.2, we recommend granular sulfur treatments to lower the pH. Maintaining the proper soil pH is very important, especially by allowing fertilizers to be more effective, as soil nutrients are tied up in the soil if the pH is too low or too high.

To request a soil test from LawnAmerica, [Contact us](#) or call the office at 888-250-2313.



Late Fall Tree & Shrub Fertilization Starts Soon



Late fall is the ideal time to provide soil nutrients for your trees and shrubs in the landscape with our Late Fall Deep-Root Fertilization. At LawnAmerica, we do this with a custom blend of nutrients your plants need in order to grow healthy and strong. A liquid deep-root fertilization is the single most important practice you can do for your landscape ornamentals to keep them healthy and more resistant to pest problems and environmental stress.

Our technicians will inject a solution of both quick and slow-release nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron, and other nutrients, along with our special Soil Builder organic soil amendment. These nutrients are then absorbed slowly into the root system of your trees and shrubs in preparation for next spring and summer growth. According to recommendations from OSU Horticulture, the ideal time for fertilization begins about a week after the first killing frost. So we will begin this important service in mid-November and continue on into December. If you are not scheduled for this service, now is a great time to start, with a special discounted price of 50% off the normal fee by adding this to your program this fall. Contact us now to schedule this great service.

Veterans Day Next Wednesday

Next wednesday is Veterans Day, so take some time to show your appreciation to the veterans in our community. One new way that has just been talked about lately is to replace a regular bulb on your porch or wherever with a green light, as a way to show your support. For more information, go to:

<http://www.greenlightavet.com/>



We have four Vets on our staff at LawnAmerica:

- James Graham Navy
- Jacob Ostere Marines

- Judd Blevins Marines
- Jake Johnson Marines

To these and to all of the veterans who have served our country, we appreciate your service!

Sincerely,
Brad Johnson
LawnAmerica Inc.



Christmas will Be Here Soon!



Christmas will be here soon and our LawnAmerica guys and gals will be transforming into Christmas elves in providing beautiful lighting displays for homes and businesses. Nobody has done Christmas lighting as long and as well as LawnAmerica, with over 20 years of experience. Using only new LED lighting, we can provide your home or business with a beautiful display for your family to enjoy this season.

Contact our office now for more information and a price quote for Christmas Decor.

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