

October To-Do List:

- Fertilize and maintain lawns now for exceptional spring and summer performance! There is still time left to maintain or install a lawn, but as the weather gets wetter and the soil gets soggy this becomes more difficult.
- Plant trees and hardy shrubs and perennials now, while the weather is still bearable.
- Keep fallen leaves cleaned up.
- As you harvest your garden, be sure to clean up plant debris and compost it, or destroy it if it is diseased.
- Fall is the best time to plant, and in many cases can be the best time to prune. After the leaves have fallen off and the plants have gone dormant, you can start pruning your deciduous trees and shrubs as needed.
- Our fall canned food drive begins Friday, October 17th! Bring in 5 cans of food and receive 20% off of your total purchase!



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A Season of Change

Fall is upon us, the temperatures are rapidly cooling, and we are on our way towards winter and the holidays. Over the next month we will see the trees and shrubs gradually lose their foliage, the perennials die back for the year, and the annuals slowly become replaced or disappear. The rains will return, the cold will gradually build, and we will all slowly migrate back indoors for the year.

Fall is a time of change, a time of reflection, and a season to look to the future. Spring will come again, and we will all be back out in the sun enjoying the beauty that April and May are sure to bring. Fall is the garden's last big hurrah; the end of one season, but the promise of another wonderful gardening season on the horizon. It's time to look back at the year, and instead of mourning the end of one season, look forward to how we can make the next one even better!

This year is winding down, but plants and gardeners alike still have work to do! The plants are putting on their last amazing show of the season, and slowly preparing to recharge for the next. The gardener's job is to clean up and construct the framework for next year's garden. It's time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials. It's time to remove and replace. It's a time of cleaning and maintaining. Spring will be back with us before we know it, rest assured, and our job as gardeners is to be ready for it when comes!

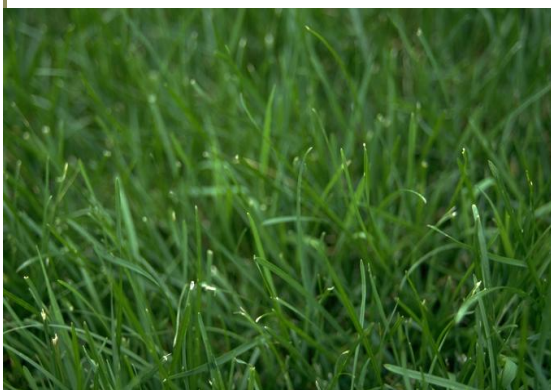


Fall is Lawn Season!

Last month we talked about fall planting, and all of the benefits of planting your trees at this time of year. It is still a great time to plant your hardy trees, shrubs and perennials, but this is also the most important season for lawn care! Spring is usually assumed to be lawn season by most people, since that's when the grass is growing the fastest, the weeds start to show up, and people become more active outdoors. Spring and summer lawns are really just a product of the treatment given in fall. The more attention you pay to your lawn in fall, the less you will have to worry about next spring, and the better the results you will see. Here are some key aspects of proper fall lawn care:

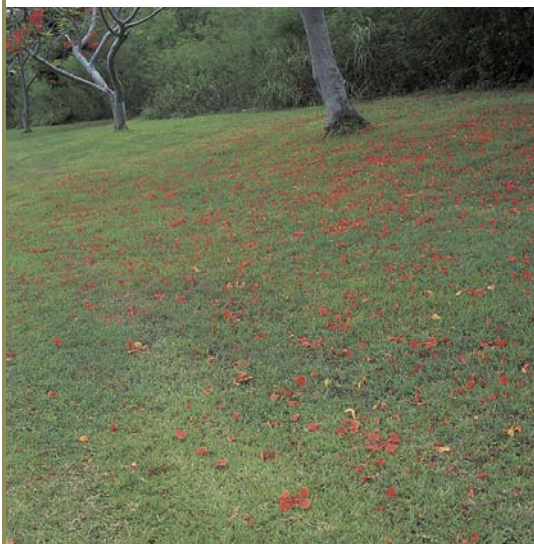


- Apply fertilizer NOW. We cannot stress how important this is! As the temperatures cool down, your lawn is beginning to grow again and build itself up for next year. It may not appear to be growing very much at the moment, but it is laying the foundation for next spring and summer. This requires fertilizer, and lots of it. You should be applying 50% of your yearly fertilizer right now, and then applying a few smaller applications in spring and early summer.
- Overseed to thicken up the turf. Chances are your lawn is looking a little bit thin from the summer stress, and this is the time to fix that. In this cooler weather, grass seed sprouts very quickly, and will have all winter to develop. A fuller lawn is a lusher looking lawn, and a lawn with fewer moss and weed problems. For most lawns around here, 4 pounds of perennial ryegrass seed per 1,000 square feet should be sufficient for most lawns, although you may need more if your lawn is really thinning.
- Lime! Our soil is usually on the acidic side around here, and chances are that your grass is suffering because of it. Lime raises the soil pH to a level that grass is more comfortable with, and also makes the soil more inhospitable for moss. This pH change takes time though, so by applying lime now you will see results in time for spring. If in doubt, you may want to have your soil tested to determine what you need to add. Most people will benefit from a yearly application though, and we strongly recommend it.



Fall is Lawn Season!

- You can spray for lawn weeds now and not have to worry about it so much in spring. Many lawn weeds are winter annuals, meaning they sprout in fall, lay low and develop roots through winter, and then grow rapidly once the spring weather hits. A lot of those weeds are already there in your lawn, but just small enough to not be easily noticed. Applying lawn weed killer now will get them while they are still developing, and will prevent a lot of them from becoming larger, more obnoxious weeds. As the weather gets cooler, traditional lawn weed killers will become less effective. Newer generations of these products though, such as our Bonide Weed Beater Ultra, will actually work at lower fall temperatures, and are less likely to drift than other products.
- De-thatching, aerating, topdressing. These are more major maintenance procedures, but really need to be done every few years (or more frequently) in our area. De-thatching is important, especially in Fine Fescue lawns, to allow water and nutrients to get to the plant roots. The higher percentage of Fine Fescue you have, and the more you fertilize and water, the more often you will need to de-thatch. Aerating is really important because of the high compaction potential of our clay soil. You should do it every 4 to 5 years, but it may need to be done more frequently if your lawn sees a lot of heavy foot or vehicle traffic. Topdressing is done to level and enhance the growing substrate, and is usually done in conjunction with aeration. These procedures require special equipment, and are slightly more in depth than we have time to discuss here.



Following these steps will get you quite a bit closer to that perfect lawn that you've been wishing for. Lawns that are properly maintained and renovated in fall will be more robust and durable, and will stay green longer into the summer. You will have fewer weed and moss issues, and will be able to spend more time in spring and summer enjoying your lawn rather than pushing it along!

Plant a Row for the Hungry

The fall harvest is in full swing, so we want to remind everyone that Farmington Gardens is a participant and drop-off point for the Plant a Row for the Hungry program. We have had more participants this year than ever, and together they have donated over 2800 pounds of gorgeous produce – that’s over a ton! Thank you to all who are giving so generously. For anyone with too many apples or pears, or for those lucky ones who have more tomatoes than they can handle: please bring them to us on Sundays, so that we can deliver them to the Sunshine Pantry. Also, to all our donors: please make sure we have a correct address for you, so that we can mail you a donation receipt with your total poundage.



It's Still Time to Plant Bulbs!

Spring may still feel a long way off, but this is the season to plant your spring flowering bulbs! Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, and Crocus all need to be planted in fall to reach their full spring potential. Most spring flowering bulbs require a period of chilling in the ground before they bloom properly, and will root into the soil during the fall. Then, when spring rolls around, they will burst from the ground and provide the spring color that we all enjoy so much! This is also the season to plant root crops like garlic, onions, and potatoes. These and other flowering bulbs will be available soon at the nursery. Get yours quickly though, because the best varieties sell out quickly!



Plan Now for Holiday Fundraisers

The Holiday Season is coming up, and we would like to remind you that it is time to start planning your Holiday fundraisers! Farmington Gardens is one of the nation’s largest producers of fresh Christmas wreaths and other greenery, and we have an established fundraising program perfect for schools, churches, and youth organizations. You simply pick the products you want to sell, take orders, and then pick up and distribute the wreaths or have us ship them to gift recipients. In order to set your organization up in our program, we need to receive a completed participation form by November 1st so that we know you are planning to participate. You can download an information packet at:

www.farmingtongardens.com/pdf/christmaspacket2008.pdf
or email celina@farmingtongardens.com.



Farmington Gardens
21815 SW Farmington Rd
Beaverton, OR 97007

Phone: 503-649-4568
Fax: 503-649-4540
E-mail: newsletter@
farmingtongardens.com

www.farmingtongardens.com

Farmington Gardens is a
Licensed Landscape Con-
tracting Business in the
State of Oregon—

OLCB# 8633



Upcoming Events

October 11, 2008

11 AM

Preparing Your Garden for Winter, with Mary Ludlum

Learn easy steps you can take now to protect your garden and put you way ahead in the spring.

Free class, no registration required.



November 8

11 AM

Bulb Forcing

Learn how to get spring bulbs to bloom in the middle of winter! Take home a finished project to enjoy during the cold winter months.

Class fee: \$25. Space is limited and pre-registration is required – call us at 503-649-4568.



November 22

11 AM

Thanksgiving Holiday Centerpiece

Carving out a beautiful pumpkin, create your own one-of-a-kind centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table.

Class fee: \$30. Space is limited and pre-registration is required – call us at 503-649-4568.

