



SEPTEMBER LANDSCAPE GUIDE

Lawns

- Grubs can be controlled in September. Products containing diazinon or sevin are effective in granular form. Products containing Merit or Mach 2 should not be used at this time. Insecticides need to be watered in thoroughly.
- Spot seed bare areas in lawns with seed of similar grass species. In sunny lawns, this usually means a blend of improved bluegrass cultivars. In shaded lawns, use a mixture of ryegrasses and fescues. Loosen the soil before seeding and firm it afterwards. Water daily, more than once if necessary, to keep the soil moist until seedlings are well established
- Around Labor Day fertilize established lawns with a complete fertilizer.
- If your lawn has heavy traffic or a thick layer of thatch build up, aerate the lawn before you fertilize.
- Continue to monitor for diseases such as Dollar Spot and Necrotic Ring Spot.
- Establish a new lawn before September 15.
- Rake leaves as they fall so they don't mat on the lawn and smother the grass plants. Add leaves to the compost pile after grinding or chopping them and mixing them with a little soil and fertilizer to speed decomposition.
- If you don't like the thought of raking autumn leaves, they can be incorporated into your lawn. 1996 research found that a large amount of leaves can be added by regularly going over the lawn with a mulching lawnmower. The lawn continues to look good and benefits from the extra organic matter.

Trees, Shrubs and Vines

- Fall is a good time to plant many container grown or balled and burlapped nursery stock. Before planting, be sure to remove wire and plastic cords from trunks and stems, and to remove plastic burlap and other non-biodegradable materials from the soil balls. Prepare a good sized hole, plant at the same depth it grew in the nursery and water thoroughly. Mulching will help protect against large fluctuations in soil temperature and moisture.
- Do not be alarmed if your evergreens, particularly white pine and arborvitae, drop some older needles. All evergreens shed needles at some time, just not all at once as deciduous plants do.
- You may dig and move established shrubbery.
- You can still plant evergreens right now, but do it as early as possible.
- Treat overwintering adults of spruce gall adelgid. An ideal time is during the peak coloration of sugar maples.
- If the weather is dry, water trees and shrubs weekly, especially newly planted ones. Do not fertilize woody ornamentals now, however. They would respond with a flush of growth that would probably be killed or injured by cold weather. You can fertilize after the first hard frost or when the plants are fully dormant but before the soil freezes. Nutrients applied then will be available to the plants as soon as they begin to grow again in the spring.



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