



green SIDE UP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL GREENERY LANDSCAPING

Serving Beaufort, Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Jasper, Liberty, McIntosh, Nassau, & Wayne Counties



Fall Fertilization is the Key to Good Spring Start

The growth of your landscape is way ahead of the actual season. Like athletes building up for an important contest, your lawn and landscape plants will be preparing all through the winter for their burst of growth next spring.

In the fall, the turf, plants, and trees are as hungry as bears before hibernation. They are capable of consuming a tremendous amount of food in the fall. In many cases, food use is higher during this time of year than through any other period of the season. As the days get shorter and the nights get cooler, plants begin a complex process of growth and preparation which continues (mainly out of sight in the root system) throughout most of the winter months. This natural process occurs every fall on its own and without any outside help, but its effects and benefits are greatly improved with correct and timely fall fertilization.

The Many Benefits of Fall Feeding

The entire process of improving the root system and building adequate food reserves has significant and direct positive results on your plants. Below are a few of the reasons your landscape and lawn should be properly fed every fall:

- 1. The healthier root systems of fall-fed plants are deeper and more extensive.** This allows the plant to better withstand the stress of both heat and drought as the season progresses. In drought conditions - especially when temperatures are also high - the plant loses a tremendous amount of moisture into the atmosphere

Properties of the Month: OCTOBER

SE GA Health Systems, BWK
Golden Isles



Compassion Henderson
Savannah



SE GA Health Systems, BWK
Support Services



Misty Harbor
South



Each Property of the Month
is selected by the Branch
Manager according to
the crew's monthly
Quality Control report.

from evaporation (with turf this loss can amount to 97% of all the water absorbed by the roots). Weak or shallow roots are often unable to keep up with the demands of the plant. This results in plant stress, generally poor performance, and increased susceptibility to disease and insect damage.

- 2. Heavy fall feeding increases resistance** to some cool-weather fungus diseases by maintaining better overall plant health. Potassium in particular has been found to assist in increasing disease resistance.
- 3. Improved winter color** of both turf and evergreens is also directly related to food availability in the fall. On turf, this is greatly affected by fall mowing practices. Grass left very long in the fall tends to fall over on itself and is much more prone to winter disease invasion as well as a browning of all the ends of the grass blades.
- 4. Well-fed plants don't dry out as much through winter.** Proper feeding increases water-holding ability. The cells of the plant become turgid - or stiff with water. The difference is similar to that between a balloon full of water and one that is empty or only partially full. The cell walls are more rigid and better able to withstand the drying and browning effects of colder winter winds and temperatures. Increased turgidity - or water levels - also reduces winter wear and tear to dormant or semi-dormant lawns caused by foot traffic.
- 5.** Good fall fertilization programs can also **improve blooming performance** of some flowering trees and shrubs.
- 6. Density (or thickness) in your lawn is also improved.** Although the results will not usually be seen until spring, there is a direct relationship between the health, size and depth of the root system and the density of the lawn. Most turf varieties form new shoots from the tillers and rhizomes (surface stems and roots) of the grass plant, which are improved and increased by a heavy feeding in the fall.

Although proper fall feeding is just one part of a good overall annual program, it's very important and often underrated. Many people see fall feeding as an optional "snack before bed" for their landscape plants. This is a misconception. Fall feeding is probably the most important feeding of the entire year since it has a direct effect on plant performance through the whole next season.



Team Members of the Month: OCTOBER

Daniel Rubio Gonzale
Golden Isles



Nate Sayre
Support Services



Luis Riveria
Savannah



Abias Mejia
South



These team members display our core values (Responsive, Ownership, Observant, Trusted, Skillful) in all that they do while working, have excellent attendance, and are constantly trying to improve themselves.

As with the growth and health of people and animals, both your lawn and landscape need regular, healthy food to maintain vigor, fight off sickness, and discourage pests. Although the feeding cycles are different between people and plants, it's just as true that depriving your valuable landscape plants of proper nourishment when they need it the most will lead to much poorer performance and possibly higher maintenance costs in the long run.

Why is Fall the Best Time for Planting?

- 1. Soil Temperatures** - Roots grow best in warm soil. Spring planting is successful for planting, but root growth is limited in the spring because the soil doesn't have time to warm up from the winter months.
- 2. Air temperatures** cool off in the fall months and plants experience minimal heat stress
- 3. Water requirements during the fall are less** for plant material and cooler weather helps to eliminate evaporation.
- 4. Planting in the fall gives plants several months to become established** prior to entering the upcoming warmer spring and summer months.
- 5. Insect damage is less** in the fall because insect populations are smaller.
- 6. Planting in the fall helps the pollinators** with food and habitat.

Fall Landscape Chores

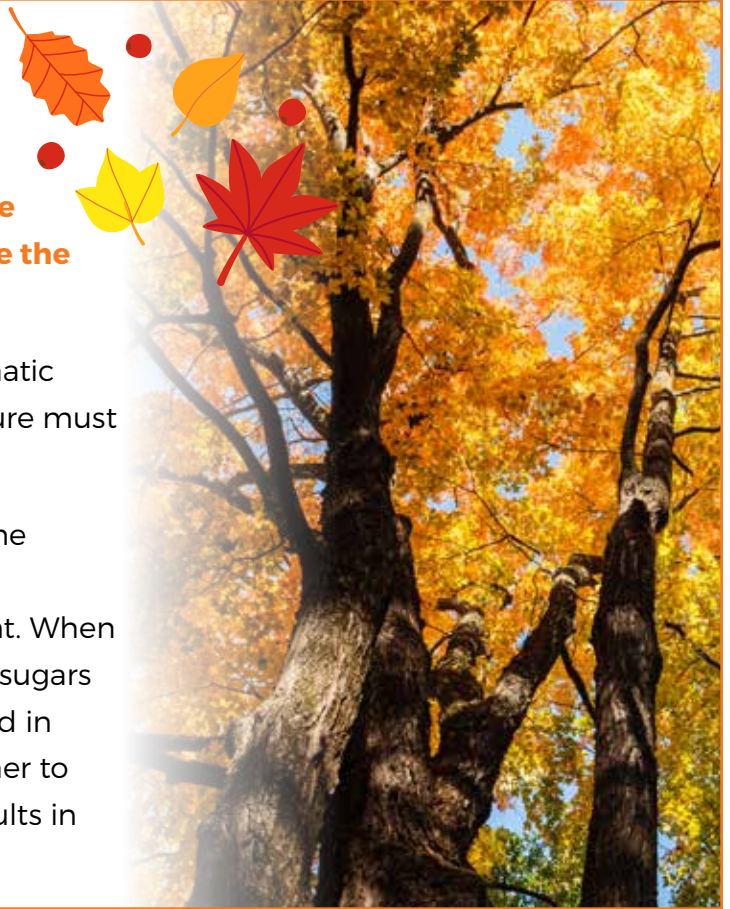
- Have your lawn aerated for proper air circulation and nutrient intake.
- Get your soil tested and apply recommended amendments now for a jump on Spring. The soil test will tell you how much lime and fertilizer to use. Wait until April to fertilize lawns, shrubs, and trees.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs and fertilize existing bulb plantings in November and December for a great Spring show.
- Prune trees and shrubs
- Irrigate landscape deeply and thoroughly, especially new transplants and seedlings.
- Mulch around trees and plant beds to protect from the winter frost.
- Plan for Spring!

Leaves of Orange, Yellow, Red or Gold

Take a little carotene, some xanthophyll, a few simple sugars, sunlight and cool temperatures, and you have the recipe for an autumn of beautiful leaf colors.

To get the brilliant scarlets, oranges and golds, the climatic conditions have to be just right and enough soil moisture must be available to the trees.

The whole process of fall color starts with changes in the length of the day and the temperature. Chemicals and nutrients move out of the leaf into the stem of the plant. When this happens, the process the tree uses to break down sugars into food changes and colors or pigments are produced in the leaves. Brighter days and cooler nights work together to produce more pigments in the foliage of trees and results in those brilliant color displays everyone enjoys so much.



Your Licensed Professionals Deliver Value.

As in any profession, it's important that we know our job. With hundreds of plant varieties, insects and diseases, professional knowledge means more professional results. You may not realize that most professional lawn technicians and applicators must meet special training and testing requirements from the EPA and state in order to be licensed or certified to work with your lawn or landscape. Then, for certification to be maintained, on-going education and training must continue every year.

Before we work on your lawn, you can be sure we not only know what we're doing, but how to do it best.

This means better results and fewer problems for you when you employ only carefully trained and certified professionals to work on your lawn and landscape.

Count on us for care that's our professional best... for you and for the earth we all share!

Our team appreciates your feedback and support!

Scan here & share your thoughts with us!



Have a question or concern? We're here to help.
Contact the **COASTAL GREENERY** Team
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