


**TurfMasters** LLC  
Imagine What Green...  
Can Do For You!

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# Turf Matters

## FALL FEEDING Q&A

**QUESTION:** I recently had my lawn fertilized. Won't that take care of my trees and shrubs too?

**ANSWER:** Unfortunately, no. It would be great if we could feed all of your landscape plants with just one application of fertilizer. However, the fertilizer that is spread on the ground for your lawn is taken up by turf roots before tree and shrub roots have a chance to absorb it.

Your trees and shrubs need to be fertilized separately, and the best way to do that is through deep-root feeding. This is an extremely efficient method of delivering nutrients to your landscape plants. With this process, fertilizer is delivered directly to the feeder root zone in one of two ways:

1). A water and slow-release fertilizer mixture is injected 8" to 10" below the soil surface under high pressure.

-or-

2.) Granular slow-release fertilizer is poured into holes that have been drilled into the feeder root zone.

Either method will ensure that your trees and shrubs get all of the nutrients they need this fall.

## There's Still Time to Fertilize

**BUT THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY WILL BE CLOSING SOON!**

Even when visible top growth slows (or stops) for the season, your turf, trees and shrubs are still in need of nutrients. They might seem inactive, but your plants are actually building up nutrient reserves, setting down new roots and strengthening their old ones.

Plants use nutrients over the fall and winter months for two things: to repair any damage they may have suffered during the growing season, and to prepare for new growth in the spring. An application of fertilizer will help this natural process along.

### SOME OF THE DIRECT BENEFITS YOU'LL SEE FROM A HEAVY FALL FEEDING INCLUDE:

- Improved winter hardiness. Plants suffer less from drying winds and severe weather because of better water-holding ability.
- Earlier and darker green-up of established lawns in the spring. Thin turf areas will become denser with improved color thanks to increased root expansion and larger nutrient reserves.
- Improved blooming in flowering trees and shrubs.
- Stronger growth in new trees, shrubs and fall-seeded lawns. Faster and more complete establishment through the winter will promote better top growth in the spring.
- An increase in natural resistance to insect pests and diseases.

To get maximum benefits from fall feeding, your lawn, trees and shrubs should be fertilized as soon as possible (if they haven't been already). It's one of the best ways to improve the looks, health and value of your landscape!



*Deep-root fertilization delivers nutrients directly to the root zone.*



## DON'T WAIT TO AERATE

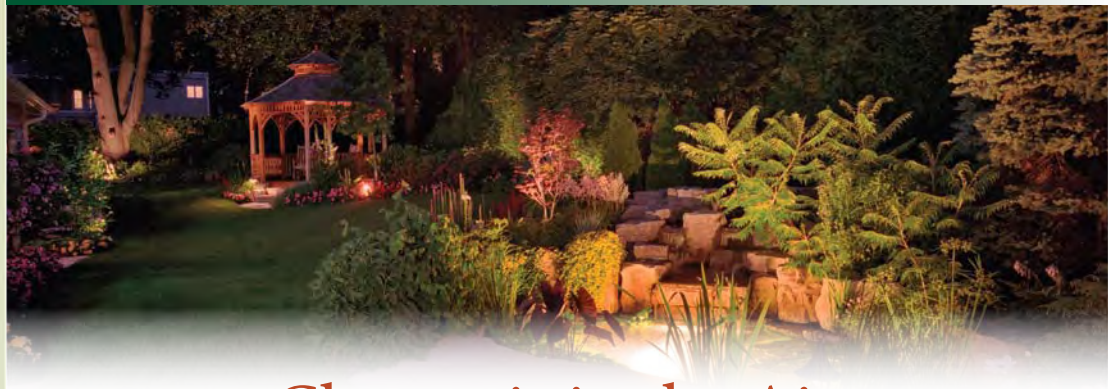
Now that fall has arrived, we'd like to remind you about the importance of core aeration. If you've ever been on a lawn and seen those little plugs of soil and thatch lying around, you're already familiar with the process. Those plugs were removed from the lawn by a machine known as a core aerator.

The simple act of removing the plugs (or cores) benefits turf in many ways. It relieves soil compaction; reduces excessive thatch; and makes it much easier for oxygen, water and nutrients to reach your lawn's root system. Aerating your lawn this fall will promote a more vigorous root system and healthier grass plants. Those grass plants will have an easier time standing up to heat, diseases and drought next year.

If your turf hasn't been aerated yet, we strongly advise you to consider the fantastic value this practice provides. The sooner aeration is performed, the better!



*Aeration creates pathways for air, water and nutrients to reach the root zone.*



## Change is in the Air

There's no doubt about it...fall is here! Leaves are changing color, temperatures are cooler, and we're all spending more time indoors now that the summer season is behind us.

Looking back over the past year, how satisfied were you with your outdoor living space? In terms of both looks and functionality, are there any changes you'd like to make? This time of year is perfect for reviewing what works and what doesn't in your landscape.

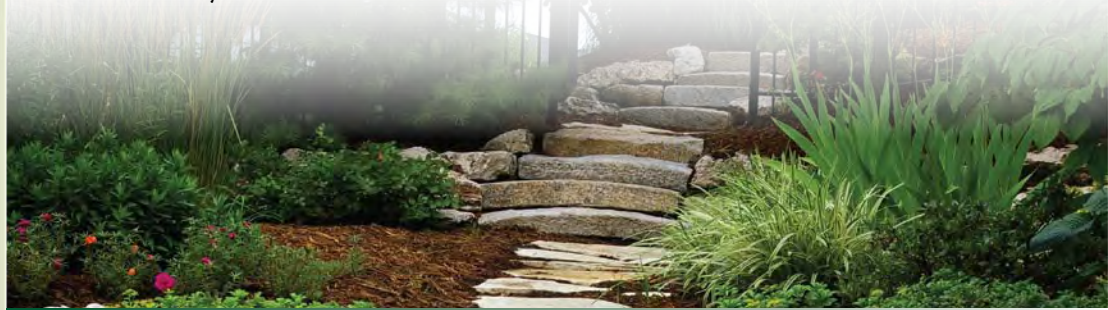
With landscape renovations, you can improve your property's curb appeal and resale value. Not to mention, you can make the outdoor portion of your property more inviting to both family and friends alike.

**THERE ARE PLENTY OF POSSIBILITIES DEPENDING ON YOUR SPECIFIC NEEDS AND BUDGET. FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDER:**



- Adding something simple like a new birdbath or a few hanging baskets
- Planting new trees, shrubs or ornamental grasses
- Installing flower beds
- Creating screens out of tall-growing plant varieties
- Installing a wood or vinyl fence
- Adding landscaping lighting
- Building a new deck or paver patio
- Installing a new pathway or walkway
- Adding a water feature such as a fountain or pond

Any of these suggestions can help to improve your property. Just be sure not to jump into any new projects without planning carefully beforehand. By sticking to a plan, you can complete parts of your landscape in stages (or over several years) according to your available time and money. Knowing what you really want to accomplish will help you get there much more efficiently!



Answers to photo puzzle on back page:  
1.) Large rock in foreground is smoother.  
2.) Hanging lamp has been added at left.  
3.) Rock-disguised light fixture has been added at left.  
4.) Ornamental grass has been added at right.  
5.) Shrub in background has been replaced by red flowers.  
6.) Umbrella at left is now red instead of black.  
7.) Small rock is missing in foreground.

# Have You Heard About Hostas?

## THE PLANTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

If you have hostas in your landscape, you already know how well they work as perennial bedding plants. With beautiful foliage and flowers, hostas are perfect for groundcovers or backdrops in shady areas. Even better, they're durable, easy to maintain, and can be divided in the fall to create more of a good thing!

Dividing hostas is a relatively simple process. The first step is to dig up a clump with a sharp spade, then separate out sections by hand or with a knife. The larger the clump, the more sections it will produce. When making the divisions, it's important to ensure that each new section has roots intact.

The sections can then be planted. Planting holes should be as deep as the root ball, and one-and-a-half times as wide. As with any new planting, the new divisions will need room to grow. So, the space between the planting holes should be equal to the diameter of the mature clump the divisions came from. Once planted, a thorough watering will help the new divisions get off to a great start in their new location.

Whether you're looking to share some plants with a friend or get more mileage out of your current plantings, dividing hostas is a great way to do it!



*Hostas make beautiful perennial bedding plants.*



## Nothing Says Springtime Like Bulbs!

Colorful blooms from bulbs will be a sight for sore eyes after another gray winter. Spring-flowering bulbs of all kinds are a major contributor to year-round color in any landscape. When planning a spring bulb display, here are some basic considerations to keep in mind:



### BLOOMING PERIOD

It's important to remember that different bulbs have different blooming times. Mixing early-blooming crocus with mid-season tulips, and then expecting them to bloom together, will lead to disappointment. On the other hand, mixing early and late varieties will give you a longer blooming season.

### HEIGHT

Some bulbs grow taller than others. Shorter varieties belong in front. For a more balanced look, plants that vary greatly in height shouldn't be mixed together. Also, very tall bulbs don't do as well in windy spots (blooms and stems can be damaged from wind gusts).

### QUANTITY

Bulbs look great in massive plantings of single types, or in beds that combine many varieties. As a general rule, bulbs provide the best display when planted in groups of 15 or more.

### PLANTING TULIPS? WATCH OUT!

Tulips are very popular spring bulbs, and for good reason. Unfortunately, however, these beauties are also a favorite food of rodents like moles and chipmunks. If you'll be planting tulips, you may want to consider mixing them with daffodils as a means of protection. Daffodils are poisonous to rodents and will help to keep them away.



Above all else, keep in mind that spring bulbs need to be planted soon if they haven't been already. The more time they have to grow roots before the ground freezes, the better.



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### Ready for a New Addition?

New plantings can make a big difference in your landscape, and there are many reasons for adding them. With a new tree or shrub, you can:



- Increase landscape interest and curb appeal (ultimately increasing property value)
- Plant a living memorial for a loved one
- Replace an overgrown or damaged plant, or a species that's particularly vulnerable to pest damage
- Add privacy to your property
- Block out a neighboring eyesore from view

Whatever your reasons for planting, trees and shrubs can easily go in now. When planted in the fall, new installations are able to get established quickly. That's because their foliage has stopped growing for the season, making nutrients more available to their roots. Root systems that develop now will be able to support rapid growth and green-up in the spring.

So, why not add to your landscape with that beautiful spring bloomer you've been longing for, or a nice new row of screening shrubs? It's an easy way to enhance your property's looks, and it's good for the environment too!

## Can You Tell the Difference?

See if you can find the seven differences between the two photos. Answers are on page 2.

