

# TURF TIDBITS



Your Turf Management Professionals

Green 4 Ever, Inc.  
7407 E Arrowhead Pkwy  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110  
334-7399

[customerservice@green4everinc.com](mailto:customerservice@green4everinc.com)



## Fall is PERFECT for lawn care

Fall is the perfect time for fertilizing to get healthy roots, which produces a nice, thick turf. It's also the best time of year to fight off your perennial weeds such as dandelions, thistles, and clover!

### Top reasons to have fall lawn care:

1. **Fall & Winterizer fertilization** stimulates root growth and replenishes nutrients for an early spring green up
2. **Weed control** is more effective with cooler temps
3. **Aeration** improves water & fertilizer absorption and effectiveness, encourages deeper root growth, and reduces thatch build-up

*Because of the cooler temps during the fall season, plants are absorbing everything they can to survive the winter. Thus, your weeds will quickly absorb the herbicide and they'll die quickly and the lawn will quickly absorb all the valuable nutrients for a better root system!*

## Why Should I Rake My Leaves

Set up the lawn for success with a *healthy* start-up next year

### If you want to ensure your lawn is vibrant in the spring, you should rake your leaves in the fall.

According to the University of Idaho Extension, grass turf photosynthesizes through the fall to create and store energy before the snow falls. When leaves fall & sit there, they cover the grass and the blades are not able to absorb sunlight in order to complete the photosynthesis process. When piles of leaves become wet, they form thick mats that smother the grass. During even the coldest months, **grass needs air circulation, water and nutrients, and if they are smothered they will not be able to obtain these vital resources.**

You should also rake to remove any potential thatch build-up that also prevents nutrients and water from reaching grass blade roots.

Garden pests, such as slugs, codling moths, snails, and fungi that cause plant diseases, such as leaf spot and blight, flourish in dark, warm and humid environments. Piles of decomposing leaves form an ideal habitat for these pests. You should not only rake the leaves in the fall to prevent these pests in the lawn, but routinely remove leaves and debris from in and around your flower beds and vegetable gardens.

It's also important to complete a thorough hand raking in early spring, too. Doing this rids the lawn of winter debris & any grass that didn't survive over the winter time. It's important to get these things out of the way so that the good grass can thrive. Leaving debris such as leaves, sticks, or dead grass on the ground, will get in the way of the healthy grass & make it hard for the surrounding grass to fill in.

## Fall To-Do List

### **Lawn:**

- **Aerate** – Aerations remove small cores of soil which improves water & fertilizer absorption and effectiveness, encourages deeper root growth, reduces thatch build-up & allows your lawn to breath, thus stimulating new growth of turf. It also relieves soil compaction. **If you haven't already, contact us for a quote!**
- **Edging** – Now that you've received your lawn care apps and have aerated, what is the finishing touch that will give you that crisp, professional look? Edging! Get an eye-catching, crisp sidewalk and driveway edge, which will make snow removal much easier this winter. Contact us for a quote!
- **Weed Control** - Now is time to kill those perennial weeds such as thistles, dandelions, clover, & creeping charlie. The night time temperatures have cooled, and the weeds will go into "fall mode". Therefore, they will quickly absorb the weed control. It is important to spray the weeds now, for better weed control next spring.
- **Mow** – Normal fall mowing height is 2". You can go a little bit shorter for the final mowing of the season later on. Make sure it's not too low, to where you would be scalping the lawn, though. Bag the clippings on that final mow, too. Not only will it look aesthetically pleasing, but you'll be removing debris & making an easier start up for next spring.
- **Rake Leaves** – As the article on page 1 says, raking leaves is very important to the health of your lawn.
- **Sprinkler Blow-out** – Before a hard front, make sure to get your sprinkler system blown out to prevent damage.

### **Garden:**

- If there is any part of your vegetable garden still intact, finish harvesting and dig up plants that will not overwinter. Doing this will harbor less diseases and bugs for the upcoming year
- After a frost, fertilize and prune trees and shrubs. They will store all these nutrients for next year's growth. Do not prune evergreens or spring flowering trees and shrubs, though.
- Plant and transplant trees, shrubs, and perennials. (Dividing of perennials should be done in Sept)

### **Home:**

- Make sure caulking around doors and windows is adequate to prevent heat loss
- Check your heating system & replace your furnace filter
- Check your home for water leaks
- If you put plastic on the outsides of windows, now would be a good time before it gets too cold
- Check smoke alarm batteries
- Clean your gutters

# A Million Thanks!

And that *still* wouldn't be enough!

We have the BEST customers. That's what makes it easy to be the BEST Company. We have been voted to The Local Best every year that it's been around, which is 14 years! And we've been voted #1 again this year. Thanks! We appreciate you!



Get the Dandelion Fixer today, for a better lawn next spring

