

Landscape Committee

Since we are in the Fall Season, and live in the southern part of the country, every plant and tree will slowly start to go dormant.... much slower than up north. With that in mind, here are some tips to get your lawn in top shape, prepped for the winter, and ready for the spring.

1. Remove the leaves. Leaves may be fun to play in, but they are no good for grass. They block the light and trap moisture killing your turf. Rake and remove them from your lawn.
2. Keep cutting, but the right height. Grass will continue to grow until the first hard frost. Keep regular cuts to at least 2 1/2 to 3 inches in height.
3. Continue to water. Your lawn still needs at least an inch of water a week. Your grass needs to be hydrated and healthy going into the winter.
4. Loosen the Soil. Regular aeration-at least once every couple of years prevents your soil from becoming compacted keeping water, oxygen, and nutrients from reaching the soil. Best time to aerate is before fertilizing.
5. Add fertilizer. Your lawn not only needs water but they also benefit from the fertilizers that provides the roots with plant sugars that protect the roots from freezing and able to bounce back in the spring. A good fertilizer is recommended in the late-fall using a slow-release granular fertilizer.
6. Spread seed. A dense lawn is good protection against weeds, which is why it's important to over seed your existing lawn. Fall is the best time to over seed because the ground is still warm, moisture is everywhere, and the sun is not as hot during the day.
7. Stay on schedule. Each step above has to be done at the right time for best results. If sticking to a schedule is proving too difficult, a lawn care service can handle the jobs that aren't getting done. I'm sure a neighbor's lawn that is looking great with a lawn care company doing the work, won't mind sharing that information with you if asked.

* 7 Fall Lawn Care Tips to do right now is taken from the link provided
<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/ideas/7-fall-lawn-care-tips-to-do-right-now>

There are numerous YouTube sites that you can get great lawn care tips, and one of my favorites is **The Lawn Care Nut** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tG1zo5LUck>
Check his site out for numerous videos on lawn care tips.

Lawn Care Tip - How to get rid of crabgrass!

Adding pre-emergent is best in the early spring. A recommended pre-emergent is called Crabgrass Pre-Emergent from Lesco and is found at your local Home Depot. (note-Lesco is not carried at the Home Depot in Killeen, but I was able to find it in Round Rock).

But if you already have those pesky crabgrass or dandelions spread all over your yard, here's a simple tool that you can use to rip out those pesky eyesores from your St. Augustine grass or Bermuda Grass. It takes effort and time, but when done, it can also be used as part of your aeration for your yard. The tool is called Stand up Weeder from Ames, or Claw Weeder from Fiskars; both found in your local Home Depot.... or the Garden Weasel from your local Lowes. I recommend doing some homework and reading all the reviews before making your final selection. I have the Garden Weasel and have no problems with it so far, works great on weeding dandelions and crabgrass (note if the crabgrass has spread out more than 3 inches in diameter, it will be a bit difficult but not impossible to weed out).

Also, on The Lawn Care Nut - How to get rid of crab grass in the lawn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwCWFpwJfqM>

Until the next newsletter....

Next Lawn Care Tip- Winterizing your irrigation system