

FALL & WINTER LAWN CARE

1. Moss Control: Apply now in the fall to keep moss to a minimum and to get a head start for spring. Use **Bonide's 'Moss Max'** but it keep off patios, walkways, plants, etc. – iron will stain! Use **'Natural Moss Max' from Bonide** (potassium soap) for no stain on surfaces.

2. Weed Control: Get weeds taken care of in the fall for a weed free lawn in spring. Use **Bonide's 'Weed Beater Ultra'**, a great cool season weed control down to 45 degrees. **'Sedge Ender' from Bonide** works to control some tougher weeds and some annual grasses as well. **'Weed Beater FE' from Bonide** for natural lawn weed killer (Iron based) AND does moss/lichens/algae as well.

3. Thatching/Aerating: Thatch if necessary to remove thatch build up coming out of summer – it will remove all weak and dead grass. Aerate to help compacted soil. Both useful this time of year with dormant lawns after dry summer.

4. Topdress/Overseed: Top-dress if aerating to fill plug holes and use compost to cover seed if over-seeding. A bale of Organic Compost will cover about 400 square feet of seed and a 1.5 cubic foot bag of Top Coat or Compost will cover about 200 square feet. You just need 1/8" to 1/4" to cover seed and keep it moist! **FOR SEED**, new lawns need about 5 to 6 pounds per thousand square feet. Just over seeding? Use 1 to 2 pounds per thousand square feet.

5. Fertilizer: Use fall/winter, moss control, or organic type of fertilizers this time of year. The key is low nitrogen, especially this year – our grass needs a boost this fall! **'Nature's Green' from EB Stone or Espoma's 'Organic Lawn Food'** are both all organic and the best lawn foods around! Try to avoid the “weed and feed” or synthetic lawn foods!

6. Lime: To help sweeten the soil in spring and fall - grass grows better in higher pH soils. Will help keep moss to a minimum and produce stronger turf. **'Lightning Lime' from Espoma** is the best and will work the fastest as well.

7. Diseases: Watch for thatch diseases and take care of them early before they take over. Red Thread is already out and about, with cooler evenings and dew. Use **'Revitalize' (organic) from Bonide** or **'Infuse' (systemic granules) from Bonide**.

8. Crane Fly Larvae: Watch for adults laying eggs and for larvae damage. Use **Bonide's 'Insect and Grub Control' or 'Eight'** granules. A lot are out in fall and expect another bumper year, unfortunately.

- Starting over? Remember it is all about the soil and drainage. You need 6” to 8” of good soil to build on for lawns. Ask for tips on how to do it right if you are starting from scratch or rebuilding existing turf areas.
- Moles – try to eliminate their food source, then repel, then attack with traps/gasser/poison when all else fails.
- Remember to use products as directed! Using twice as much will not work twice as well

Remember to go green if you can! There are great natural solutions to most problems! Help the environment and be people, pet and wildlife safe!