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Subject: Lawn Tips for November

Super-Sod's November Lawn Tips

Landscaping Tips

- Prevent lawn suffocation and **blow those pretty autumn leaves** off your lawn!
- **Watering your lawn** is always a balance of observation and conservation. If you've recently laid *any* type of new sod or planted Tall Fescue seed, you will need to continue to provide irrigation until your lawn is established. Established warm season lawns likely don't need watering as they enter dormancy. Observe your lawn and your climate and water accordingly.
- **Mulch** your annuals, perennials, trees, and shrubs to protect the roots from cold weather.

Warm-Season Lawn Tips (Zoysia, Bermuda, Centipede, St. Augustine)

- **Nitrogen is a no-no:** Beware the ads pitching "winterizer" products which are high in nitrogen. Your warm season lawn is going dormant and doesn't need much fertilizer - in fact, high nitrogen can cause damage due to increased tender growth that is killed during the winter and it can increase fungal problems that show up in the spring. Fall applications should consist of a higher phosphorus and potassium content like our 0-0-7 with pre-emergent. Wait until late spring 2016 to use a high nitrogen fertilizer on Zoysia, Bermuda, and St. Augustine (Centipede rarely needs high nitrogen).

- Are you seeing **fungal "patch" diseases** on your lawn? We wrote about this in October's Lawn Tips and are going to repeat ourselves this month.
 - **Fungicide Point #1:** There's been tons of rain and with the rain and overcast skies, temps are right for fungal outbreaks on warm season lawns.
 - **Fungicide Point #2:** Even without the right conditions for an outbreak right now, Zoysia, Bermuda, Centipede, & St. Augustine lawns should get an application of preventative fungicide in the autumn (once soil temps are 70 degrees) to help reduce the possibility of Large Patch appearing in the spring. Remember, an ounce of prevention in the fall is cheaper and easier than curing Large Patch in the spring!

**Since this was written,
we've issued a RED ALERT on Fungal Diseases.**

<http://www.supersod.com/blog/disease-warm-season-lawn/>

- **Do not aerate warm-season lawns in fall;** wait until early summer.
- Even though your warm season lawn is not growing very fast and is going dormant, **keep it mowed** to the recommended height, which you can look up here: [Lawn Maintenance Guides](#). Letting your warm season turf grow too long prevents the canopy from drying out and can promote large patch disease, which appears in the spring.

Due to the wet, overcast conditions that prevailed during October, we're getting tons of phone calls about fungal problems.

Here's an example of large patch taken by our own in-house specialist, Tim Bowyer, Ph.D.

Please read the bullet points above that address this issue.

Tall Fescue Lawn Tips

- Lay your **Fescue sod** now, while the days are nice and cool. Request a [Free Sod Quote](#).
- **Overseeding Existing Fescue Lawns:** The window is closing, but there is still time to overseed your Fescue lawn with our [Blue Tag Certified Elite Tall Fescue](#).
- **POST-emergent Herbicide on NEW Fescue:** If you planted a brand new Fescue lawn from seed and in the process tilled up the existing soil, you've likely kicked up weed seeds with the tiller and exposed them to light (light is one of the factors that causes seeds to germinate). The seeds are probably now germinating and you're worried about the weeds alongside your Fescue seedlings. Here's a rule of thumb: it's okay to apply a post-emergent herbicide (such as Trimec) labeled for use on Tall Fescue lawns after you've mowed your new lawn three to four times.
- **Mowing Tall Fescue Seedlings:** The first time to mow your lawn (at a 2.5-3" cut height) is when the seedlings reach 3-4" tall. In fact, mowing will promote growth (both root and shoot growth)! So don't be timid. Mow it.
- **Aerating Existing Fescue Lawns using Soil3:** Aerating

- improves established Fescue lawns by increasing air, water, and nutrient availability in the root zone of your lawn. Use a core aerator and for best results spread a 1/4" layer of [Soil3](#) organic compost first, then aerate. Aerating after spreading Soil3 will work the compost down into the root zone. Two notes: don't aerate a newly sodded Fescue lawn because it's not rooted AND don't aerate warm-season lawns until May.
- It IS TIME to **fertilize Tall Fescue** because it's starting to grow! Get it? Holding off fertilizer helps your warm season lawn enter dormancy and essentially go to sleep for the winter - where putting water and fert on it would keep it "awake." Soooo, watering and fertilizing your Fescue NOW (which loves to grow in cold weather), promotes growth and being "awake" during the proper time for this cool season grass.
- **Fertilizing Existing Fescue Lawns:** *We recommend 16-4-8 fertilizer for established Elite Tall Fescue lawns.*
- **Fertilizing when seeding Fescue:** *We recommend 18-24-12 starter fertilizer.*
- Along with fertilization, **apply lime** to neutralize the pH of your soil. Optimal soil pH is critical for your Fescue lawn to be able to uptake the important nutrients supplied by your fertilizer. First, take a soil test to determine if you need lime.
- Once established, **mow** your Fescue lawn at 2.5" to 3" cutting height.

Forward these Tall Fescue tips to your friends in the Upstate!

Forward

Contact us with any questions you have about taking care of your lawn this fall.

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