

Fertilize in fall...feed the roots for spring!



Better roots, more shoots!

Managing a healthy lawn in fall.

Your lawn may not look like it's growing during late fall and winter. But there's a lot going on under the soil. Knowing what you need to do now will make a big difference in just a few months.

This checklist will help you maintain a beautiful, livable lawn – so you will have a healthy lawn when spring rolls around again.

1 FEED YOUR LAWN NOW.

When the weather gets cooler (between 55 and 65 degrees), your lawn starts to concentrate on growing new roots and grass plants. Now is the time to apply fertilizer so you'll have strong roots and more shoots in spring.

2 LEAVE THE CLIPPINGS ON YOUR LAWN.

Grass clippings improve the soil by releasing nutrients as they decompose – without the risk of runoff!

In fact, by leaving clippings on the lawn, you can reduce the amount of fertilizer you would ordinarily buy and use in a year by up to a third.

3 HIRE A CERTIFIED LAWN CARE PROVIDER TO HELP MANAGE YOUR LAWN.

You'll get professional and environmentally sustainable advice that could make a big difference throughout your home landscape!

Visit www.delawarelivablelawns.org for a certified lawn care provider near you.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO **NOW!**

Aug. Get rid of weeds before they go to seed.

- ▶ Reseed or renovate lawns in mid to late August.

Sept. Plant perennials, trees and shrubs.

- ▶ Fertilize the lawn:
Quick release – 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet
Slow release – 2 pounds nitrogen per 1,000 square feet
- ▶ Aerate the lawn.



Oct. Fertilize the lawn again if you used quick release last month.

- ▶ Divide and move crowded perennials.
- ▶ Plant spring-flowering bulbs.



Nov. Clean up the garden and put yard waste in the compost pile.

- ▶ Rake leaves from lawn, shred and spread on beds.



Dec. Winterize lawn mowers and other equipment.

January: Start making plans for spring!

For more information visit
www.delawarelivablelawns.org

Delaware
Livable Lawns