

Fall: No Better Time To Fertilize

Plants don't *stop* growing in the fall, they just change *the way* they grow. As cooler weather sets in, top growth slows and the plant shifts its energy to root expansion. In preparation for winter, your lawn, trees and shrubs strive to fill their root systems with as many nutrients as they can. You can help this process by fertilizing.



Your lawn needs regular fertilization throughout the growing season with the heaviest feeding taking place in the fall which promotes a thicker, stronger root system rather than excessive top growth. This will lead to a greener, more vigorous lawn next spring.

Trees and Shrubs

In their natural woodland habitat, trees and shrubs receive a constant supply of nutrients from soil that is rich in organic matter and is always replenished by decomposing leaves and plant material. But in our home landscapes, in the pursuit of an immaculate lawn, we remove this plant matter on a regular basis thus removing our plant's natural nutrient supply. And since ornamental trees

and shrubs are often subjected to unfavorable solid and environmental conditions, we need to fertilize. With a heavy application of fertilizer in the fall, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are delivered to tree and shrub roots for improved color, growth and overall health. Even more importantly, fall fertilization improves your landscape plants' ability to stand up to pests, disease and the effects of severe weather.

Remember...

Your lawn, trees and shrubs depend on **you** to give them the nutrients they need. For optimum winter health and better-looking plants in the spring, fertilize in the fall.

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Get In Touch With Your Roots

Aeration has been called "the secret weapon" of a healthy lawn. Regular lawn aeration allows for better penetration of air, water and nutrients to the root system and helps reduce unhealthy thatch build-up. Some other advantages of core aeration are:

- * Breaks up clay and loosens sub soil.
- * Stimulates root generation and growth.
- * Increases efficiency of fertilizers.
- * Allows for deeper water penetration.
- * Helps optimize soil microbial populations.

The best time of the year to aerate is in the Fall and again in the Spring. Both September and October are great months to aerate, fertilize and over-seed. Combining these three things will dramatically improve the overall look of your lawn.

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**Receive 15% OFF*
when you schedule
any service mentioned
in this newsletter!**

*Services must be scheduled by September 30, 2011 to qualify for discount. Applicable services include: aeration, fertilization, paver sealing, bulb planting and tree/shrub trimming.

Plan Now For Spring Color

If planned and planted correctly, spring bulbs will provide a beautiful spring color show with a minimum of maintenance. In general, the planting window for spring bulbs is from mid-September to mid-October. This gives bulbs enough time to grow roots before the ground freezes.

Site Choice

Warmth and bright light are necessary to trigger good growth in the spring. Ideally, the planting site will be sheltered from cold winds, while avoiding low lying areas that tend to

collect frost. The planting site should also receive lots of direct sunlight, both to help the plants manufacture and store food for the following year's growth cycle and to encourage flowering in the spring. Planted in the right spot, bulbs can be expected to return year after year.

Preparation

Bulbs do best in soil that is rich in organic matter and is well drained. Add peat moss, compost or shredded leaf mulch to the soil and work in to a depth of 10-12". Add fertilizer and mix thoroughly.



Planting

Bulbs look best in odd-numbered groups or in mass plantings. Plant bulbs with the pointed end up (planting depths and spacing vary depending on variety of bulb). Return the soil to the planting holes and water thoroughly. Then sit back and wait for spring... and the beautiful blooms!

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New To The Team

We would like to welcome Ben Shour to the Stewart Landscapes team! Ben is a professional arborist and comes to us with 12 years of tree service and landscaping experience. Ben and his wife, Rebecca, are long-time residents of the Des Moines Metro and currently live in the Ankeny area.

With Ben's expertise we will now be offering a full line of tree care services including, tree trimming and diagnostics, as well as, tree injections for disease and insect control.

Call or e-mail Ben today for a free quote on your tree and shrub care!

Office: (515) 971-4859 E-mail: Ben@StewartLandscapes.net

Maintain The Beauty Of Your Paver Patio

Sealing paver and natural stone patios and sidewalks is often overlooked. Sealing acts as a repellent and eliminates the absorption of water, stains and mold and mildew spores, while acting as a sunscreen to protect against fading due to the sun's UV rays. Sealants also prevent weed seed from germinating in the joint lines causing weeds to grow

and damaging the pavers. Available in low sheen, high gloss, low gloss, matte, and flat finishes, sealants will preserve, not conceal, the natural beauty of the stone. Pavers and natural stone are a beautiful investment to your home or business, and sealing is the most efficient way to protect that investment.

Sealed vs. Unsealed



**Another Way
To Find Us!**

