

FALL 2010

Compliments of



From the Ground Up



Fall Garden Chores



1. Remove any weeds which may have germinated late in the season and invaded the soil near or over top a perennial. Left unchecked, robust weeds can kill the perennial underneath.
2. Surround each perennial or shrub with a generous supply of compost. This adds organic matter to the soil and assists in promoting a healthy environment for beneficial soil microorganisms. You may also want to add bonemeal or a high phosphorus fertilizer.
3. Trees, shrubs and perennials can all be planted in the fall.
4. Transplanting and dividing plants is ideally done in the fall. The soil is generally easy to work with and the active root growth of the plant will quickly repair any root injury which occurs during the digging process.
5. Bulbs can be planted as you divide and transplant perennials. Consider the flowering time and colour of the perennial and plant a bulb which would be a good companion. For example ornamental onions are a perfect companion to artemesia or crocus & daffodils with evening primrose.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

A 50 x 50 ft. lawn releases enough oxygen for a family of four.

Breathe in... Breathe out...

The Green Green Grass of Home

Fertilize: Feed your turf a healthy diet and you will be rewarded with a lush, healthy lawn from spring to fall.

Your lawn depends on a steady supply of nutrients throughout the growing season. Too much mowing, foot traffic and hot, dry weather stress its reserves. Fertilized lawns develop better colour and thicker turf while growing strong root systems that ward off pests and weeds. It is recommended to fertilize four times a year, thus providing the right nutrients at the right time. The lawn should be fed in early May, late June, early August and one last time in late September. This fall fertilizer is then ready to go to work as soon as growth commences the following spring. The first and last application should be a high phosphorus fertilizer which will promote root growth. A grass with deep roots will be better prepared to gather moisture and nutrients thus reducing the need for watering. The second and third applications should be high nitrogen content as this will promote the desired lush green growth.

Water: The average lawn requires about 1" of water every 5-7 days.

Deep watering is the key to water conservation. A slow gentle watering once a week will allow the water to soak down to the roots, reducing water wastage and encouraging deep rooted turf.

Mow: Regular mowing at 1 1/2 to 2 inches is recommended for our region.

The grass should be left slightly longer during dry spells to help conserve moisture. The final mowing of the year should be short (1") to help prevent snow mold in the spring.

Dethatch: An annual springtime ritual.

The purpose of dethatching is to remove dead grass and winter grime that has packed in around the crown of the grass. It allows for proper air movement and moisture penetration to the root zone. This procedure should not be done on a first or second year lawn. On an established lawn dethatching may be done every spring or every other spring. If you bag all grass clippings when you mow, you may only need to rake to lift the nap of the grass. Excess thatch serves as a breeding zone for pests and disease and tends to reduce water penetration. However, clippings from a light mowing which are left on the lawn contribute to its health by conserving moisture and eventually returning some nutrients to the soil.

To prepare for winter: Reduce watering and mowing to "as required."

Clean up fallen leaves as they accumulate. Leaving them on the grass over winter can smother it leaving dead spots and increases the likelihood of snow mold in the spring.



Our “Spotlight On” page provides information on a different tree, shrub and perennial in each addition of “From the Ground Up”

White Garden Phlox

Phlox paniculata ‘David’

This tall perennial has bright white clusters of fragrant blooms in July and August and is very attractive to butterflies. Growing to a height of 3’ (1m) and spreading 24” (60cm), it is also resistant to powdery mildew. It prefers full sun and evenly moist soil conditions. This perennial is hardy to zone 3.



My Monet Weigela

Weigela florida ‘Verwig’

A dense multi-stemmed shrub, this Weigela is covered in rose colored trumpet shaped flowers. It has attractive white and green variegated foliage with hints of pink that turns brick red in the fall. Its height and spread is about 18.” It prefers full sun and should not be allowed to dry out. Placed in a protected position in is hardy to Zone 3.

Austrian Pine

Pinus nigra

This tall evergreen has long dense green needles and an upright spreading habit of growth. It is tolerant of poor soils or dry sites. This tree prefers full sun and will grow to a height of 60’ and spread 40’ wide. It is hardy to zone 3.



FERTILIZER FACTS

There are many different types of fertilizers available, all promising lush vigorous plant growth and boasting a list of ingredients essential for plant health.

Fertilizers have 2 basic ways of delivering nutrients to your lawn or garden: instant or slow release. Instant would be a liquid or quick dissolving powder or granule. These are water soluble and reach the roots immediately giving the plants an immediate boost. This method helps green up the lawn immediately but the results will fade more quickly. Slow or controlled release formulations are usually coated granules or spikes which take longer to absorb thus giving a more constant source of nutrients over a longer period of time. It is a bit more expensive initially but needs less frequent application.

The numbers on the product label indicate the essential nutrients which are nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). They are always listed in that order. For example, 10-15-10 means 10% nitrogen, 15% phosphorus and 10% potassium. Usually the label also indicates what plants the fertilizer mixture is for.

Organic fertilizers are choices such as bloodmeal, bonemeal, manures and composts. Many of these are less expensive and are often preferred by gardeners as they are less likely to cause a burn to the plants, are environmentally friendly and improve the quality and condition of the soil.

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