



The Other Side

The Grass is Always Greener on 'The Other Side'

Late Fall Fertilization “Winterizer” Application

Cool-season turf grasses (Bluegrass & Ryegrass) benefit greatly from late fall fertilization. Not only does it prepare turf for winter, it also has a major effect on the quality of these turf grasses the following spring.

Fall is the time of year when cool-season turf grasses recover from the stresses of the summer heat, disease, insect damage and drought. As the temperatures of the fall season begin to cool, grass plants begin to slow in top growth and start diverting their energy into the root system in order to increase plant density. By doing this, the plants begin repairing areas thinned by summer stresses and start to build up their carbohydrate reserves (the plants' food system). This process makes the grass plant more tolerant of stressful winter conditions and allows for improved growth and stress tolerance for the next growing season. These processes are able to continue late in the year because the soil temperatures are warmer than the air temperatures. Fall fertilization provides the plant with the nutrients it needs to carry out these processes.

In our area, the timing for late fall fertilization will usually begin around the middle of October and continue through mid-November. The grass plants will build reserves as long as photosynthesis can occur, and will stop only when snow covers the ground or the ground freezes. As this is a granular (dry) fertilizer, it does not require you to water it into the ground. Normal rain or early snow fall will place the fertilizer into the soil profile.

In addition to the physical benefits to the grass plant, late fall fertilization also provides the visual benefit of keeping lawns green later into the fall as well as faster greening up the next spring.

Although our regular 4 application program provides all of the nutrients necessary to maintain your lawn throughout the growing season itself, this optional late fall application provides many additional benefits to increase the overall quality and health of your lawn. If you would like to try this optional 5th application, please stop in our office or give us a call at 832-1026.

Cost: \$ 5.75 per 1000 Sq.Ft.

Application dates: Oct. 15 – Nov. 15