

SHAPE UP!

E P T E M B E R

Get your turf into shape for next year

Bare, exposed soil can affect water quality by increasing runoff of water and materials applied, leaching, and erosion. If your lawn survived summer stress, begin with a Labor Day application of fertilizer (24-3-20). If your lawn has deteriorated beyond help from fertilizer and patching, you may choose to renovate by seeding or sodding, and Saratoga Sod can assist you with either choice. The first half of the month is the ideal time because temperatures cool, moisture is adequate, and weeds are less competitive.



Renovation of your existing lawn should be done as follows:

- ◆ REMOVE THATCH & DEAD TURFGRASS WITH RAKE OR SOD CUTTER
- ◆ GRADE OR REGRADE AREAS TO CORRECT LOW LYING WET SPOTS
- ◆ ADD SOIL AMENDMENTS (LIME, FERTILIZER, COMPOST)
- ◆ RAKE TO SMOOTH OUT THE AREA
- ◆ ADD A LIGHT TOPDRESSING OF STARTER FERTILIZER
- ◆ SEED AREA AT RECOMMENDED SEEDING RATES AND RAKE LIGHTLY
- ◆ ROLL TO ENSURE GOOD SEED TO SOIL CONTACT & MULCH LIGHTLY WITH STRAW OR PELLETIZED MULCH
- ◆ WATER REGULARLY SO SURFACE DOES NOT DRY. WATER FREQUENTLY FOR 3 WEEKS AND THEN FERTILIZE
- ◆ IF SODDING, ROLL OUT THE SOD AND STAGGER IT LIKE BRICKS
- ◆ ROLL LIGHTLY TO ENSURE GOOD SOD TO SOIL CONTACT
- ◆ WATER INSTALLED AREA TO SATURATION



September is a good time for:

MOWING: KEEP BLADES SHARP TO AVOID DULL MOER INJURY. MOW NEWLY ESTABLISHED OR RENOVATED AREAS WHEN 60% OF THE SEEDLINGS ARE 2.5 INCHES.

FERTILIZING: FERTILIZE ON OR ABOUT LABOR DAY USING APPROXIMATE RATIO OF 24-3-20 OR A 24-5-11.

SCOUTING: CONTINUE TO SAMPLE FOR GRUBS. FALL TREATMENT IS DEEMED MORE EFFECTIVE THAN SPRING. THE ORANGE ON YOUR LAWN MIGHT BE RUST, A COMMON TURFGRASS DISEASE. DESPITE THE COLOR, IT IS NOT DANGEROUS TO HUMANS AND CAN BE MANAGED THROUGH PROPER FERTILIZATION.

CONTROLLING WEEDS: SEPTEMBER IS STILL THE BEST TIME FOR POSTEMERGENCE BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL. AVOID APPLICATION BEFORE AN EXPECTED RRAINFALL.

