

YARD SMARTS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS OF THE LAWN MOWGUL

CALENDAR

September

Aeration: Creates a thicker, greener and healthier lawn.

Winter Rye: Must be planted before November to get a year 'round green lawn.

Fertilize: Begin the month with 28-3-10 with iron. End the month with pre-emergent.

Flowers: For pretty blooms, start cool-weather annuals like snapdragons.

October/November

Fertilize: Add pre-emergent broad leaf weed control and granular fertilization.

Seasonal Color: Add fall color with pansies, mums and more!

Overseed with rye grass and mulch beds.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR FALL

Dear Customer:

Fall has arrived and I would like to present my fall services.

◆ **Winter Rye:** Must be done before November.

Benefit — Just think! Winter Rye gives you a green lawn in the middle of winter! There are benefits beyond having a green lawn: winter rye covers bare spots and controls erosion. If interested, please call!

Cost — Averages around \$90.00 per lawn.

◆ **Winter Fertilizer:** Should be done before November.

Benefit — Adding pre-emergent will retard weed germination. Fertilization provides the necessary minerals your lawn needs. Aeration allows nutrients, water and air to create a thicker, greener and healthier lawn.

Cost — Starting at \$36.00 per lawn.

◆ **Seasonal Color:** Planting should be done in mid September though November

Benefit — Pansies, kale, snapdragon, primrose and mums will be available soon. The price per flat includes removal of summer flowers, turning existing bed, adding blood meal to soil and planting. We can add mulch to your flower beds also.

Cost — Varies by plant, ie: pansies (including planting) will cost \$20/flat.

◆ **Mulch:** Can be done at any time.

Benefit — Decorative and helps provide extra protection against freeze damage of bedding plants.

Cost — 100 sq. Ft. at a 3" depth is \$42.00 or \$6.25 a bag.



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WATCH FOR "BROWN PATCH"

If circular brown patches appear on your lawn, chances are that it has been affected by "Brown Patch."

Caused by a fungus, Brown Patch thrives in moderate temperatures and humidity, and it attacks all types of turfgrasses.

The patches, which seem to appear overnight, can range from a few inches in diameter to several feet.

Brown patch needs to be treated with a fungicide, and to be successful, it should receive at least three treatments at 7 to 10-day intervals.

This fungus will kill the grass roots, so let us know if you see these circular patches develop.

OFF SEASON OR A BREAK FROM THE HEAT

We at the Lawn Mowgul don't believe in an off season. For us, it's just a vacation from the heat. And just because it is cold outside and the grass has turned brown, that doesn't mean the Lawn Mowgul hibernates until the following spring.

There are many additional preparations a person could do to get his or her home landscape ready for cold weather.

For instance, adding mulch to bedding areas will protect your flowers, and removing excess smothering leaves from the lawn will keep them from rotting the grass beneath.

There are also many aesthetic improvements that can be done when it's cold outside. Over seeding with rye will provide a year-round green lawn. Regular yard clean-up will keep the leaves cleaned up off the driveway or side walks. We can also provide seasonal flowers.

We are eager to fulfill our customers' wintertime landscape needs. Year-round work is an integral part in retaining high-caliber employees.

We try to keep our employees from one year to the next. To do that we need to keep them busy in the fall and winter.

If there is a cold weather job you need done, just call the Lawn Mowgul @ 214.522.5159.

FUN FACTS

- ✦ More money is spent on gardening than on any other hobby.
- ✦ The Mexican Jumping Bean is not a bean. It's actually a thin-shelled section of a seed section of a seed capsule containing the larva of a small gray moth called the jumping bean moth (*Laspeyresia saltitans*).
- ✦ The fragrance of flowers is due to the essences of oil which they produce.

LET THE LAWN MOWGUL INSTALL AND/OR MAINTAIN YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM



This time of the year is a good time to be thinking about adding new sprinklers, replacing or updating your old system or updating your system to match your new landscaping. And the Lawn Mowgul is the one to call. We'll take care of all of your spinkler needs, just call 214/522-5159.

Automatic sprinkling systems have some pretty strong advantages. Your plants get just the amount of water they need, not too much, and not too little. You can set the water to come on early in the morning, when the pressure is the greatest and evaporation the least.

But perhaps the greatest incentive of all, automatic sprinkling systems are the ideal investment. They start paying for themselves the first day you use them, and they keep paying for themselves forever.

As you plan and construct your sprinkler system you'll find there's a head for almost any shape or size spot in your landscape. Adjustable impulse heads let you water full or part circles. Riser heads are available that will spray long narrow areas, circles, semi-circles, quarter and three-quarter circles and even squares. There are even special bubbler heads you can use in ground covers. We'll take care of all of your spinkler needs, just call 214/522-5159.

MANAGING YOUR LAWN

How well you manage your lawn in late fall and early winter will have a tremendous influence on its survival. Many lawns are under severe stress and need all the help they can get. To make your job easier, we've outlined our four best recommended management practices for lawn care in late fall to early winter.

1 Lawn Cleaning and Debris Removal

When we winterize your yard, we make sure there aren't too many leaves left on your yard, and we watch for leaves accumulating in areas next to fences, buildings or shrubs where the wind can blow them. The wind can cause them to form a thick layer that's detrimental to your lawn's health.

2 Pre-Emergent Management

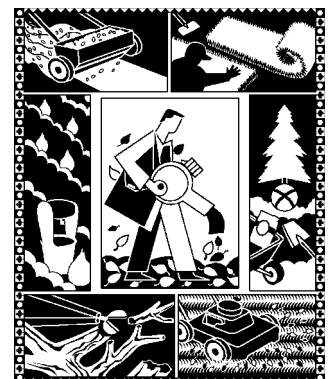
By now, we should have made the first application of a fall pre-emergent herbicide. However, some homeowners need a second application of pre-emergent herbicide in early December. If a blanket of leaves is on the lawn, it will be difficult to properly water the herbicide into the soil surface. If you are going to make a pre-emergent herbicide application after tree leaves have fallen, we will remove the leaves before applying herbicide.

3 Watering Systems

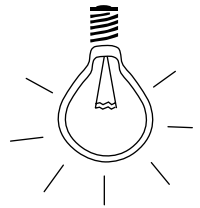
Proper irrigation is one of the most important practices this time of year. **The number one reason for losing turfgrass in Texas is death from drying, not low temperature kill.** While your turfgrass plants may be dormant (brown), they're still alive and require moisture to survive. We can review your watering habits or help you set your sprinkler system.

4 Cool-season Grasses Need Nutrition

We will monitor and apply nutrition for your grasses.



Call today! (214) 522-5159



FALL FLOWERS

Pansies will be available in mid–September. The price of \$20 per flat includes removal of summer flowers, turning existing bed, adding blood meal to soil and planting.

- ✓ Three inches of mulch can be added for \$22 per 100 feet squared (\$4.95/bag) for Pinebark mulch or \$42 per 100 feet squared (\$6.25/bag) for Cypress mulch. The mulch not only has an impressive look but helps shield the flowers and surrounding landscape. Should the temperatures drop below freezing, kale, mums and other flowers are also available. We are currently taking orders. Please note: as November approaches color and variety selection become limited.
- ✓ Pansies will last from mid–September into mid–May. They provide more calendar days of color than any other flower.

TO TRANSPORT HOUSEPLANTS

To transport houseplants by car, keep the plants warm—they can be injured if the temperature drops below 45 degrees. A closed paper or plastic bag will trap enough warm air to get the plants from the house to the car. For overnight travel, wrap the plants with 10 sheets of newspaper, plastic foam or bubble wrap. Transport them inside the car—not in the trunk—in cardboard boxes that can be closed. Do not send plants by moving van in cool or cold weather—most vans do not heat the area where goods stay during transport.

