

# TURF TIDBITS



## Summer weather in OCTOBER??



Your Turf Management Professionals

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Isn't it funny how we're talking about hot, dry summer weather patterns in the *winter* newsletter?! But such is Midwest life! According to KELO <http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/summer-weather-in-october/?id=185872> we are in for a treat. **Nice, warm weather**, 10-15 degrees higher than normal, will stick around for awhile. On the flip side, **we've also been extremely dry**. In the last 2 weeks, we've only received 1/4" of rain. <http://www.weather.com/weather/monthly/I/57103:4:US>. Although we humans probably appreciate the wonderful fall weather, our lawns are drying out! **If your goal is to have a nice, thick, lush turf, then watering 2x per week, 1/2" each time will be essential.** Based on the recent small rainfall totals, that means you really need to get the water to your lawn, **especially before blowing out your sprinkler system for the season.** Otherwise expect brown spots, as the turf could get stressed out. You want the turf to be as healthy as possible going into our harsh winter months. Watering, fertilizing, & raking now will help make that happen.

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## Why Should I Rake My Leaves

Set the lawn up for success with a *healthy* start-up next year

### If you want to ensure your lawn is vibrant in the spring, you should rake your leaves in the fall.

According to the University of Idaho Extension, grass turf photosynthesizes through the fall to create and store energy before the snow falls. When leaves fall & sit there, they cover the grass and the blades are not able to absorb sunlight in order to complete the photosynthesis process. When piles of leaves become wet, they form thick mats that smother the grass. During even the coldest months, **grass needs air circulation, water and nutrients, and if they are smothered they will not be able to obtain these vital resources.**

You should also rake to remove any potential thatch build-up that also prevents nutrients and water from reaching grass blade roots.

Garden pests, such as slugs, codling moths, snails, and fungi that cause plant diseases, such as leaf spot and blight, flourish in dark, warm and humid environments. Piles of decomposing leaves form an ideal habitat for these pests. You should not only rake the leaves in the fall to prevent these pests in the lawn, but routinely remove leaves and debris from in and around your flower beds and vegetable gardens.

It's also important to complete a thorough hand raking in early spring, too. Doing this rids the lawn of winter debris & any grass that didn't survive over the winter time. It's important to get these things out of the way so that the good grass can thrive. Leaving debris such as leaves, sticks, or dead grass on the ground, will get in the way of the healthy grass & make it hard for the surrounding grass to fill in.

## PRE-WINTER CHECK LIST

### LAWN:

- Continue to rake leaves. This helps prevent the spread of disease and smothering. (see article above)
- **For winter defense, your last 1-2 mowings in late fall, should be the shortest. Use the last or 2<sup>nd</sup> to last setting on your mower, being careful not to scalp the yard. Mowing short will help keep the grass blades from bending over under the snow, causing things such as matting or snow mold.**
- Before a hard frost, blow your sprinkler system out. But before you do that, try to get a good, heavy watering on the lawn.
- Spray for broadleaf weeds! Fall is the perfect time to treat them.
- Fertilize with our Winterizer application.
- Order a fall aeration or an edging.

### GARDEN:

- When you're finished harvesting the garden, dig up plants that will not overwinter & clean up debris in the garden area. Doing this will harbor less diseases and bugs for the upcoming year.
- After a hard, killing frost, fertilize and prune trees and shrubs. They will store all these nutrients for *next* year's growth.
- Wrap the trunks of young trees to protect their tender bark from winter and animal injury.
- Drain and store garden hoses.
- One way to overwinter annuals such as GERANIUMS is to bring them inside, cut them back to 1/3 of their original height, water them whenever the soil is dry to the touch, set them by a well lit window that gets at least 4 hours of direct sunlight, and fertilize monthly until next season!
- Don't deadhead those last few roses on your rose bush. Let them produce rose hips – the seed carrying structure of the rose. Going to seed triggers the rose to ready itself for winter, thus increasing its chance of survival.
- All gas powered equipment with gas left in the tank, should get a gas stabilizer in the tank to overwinter the gas

### HOME:

- Make sure caulking around doors and windows is adequate to prevent heat loss.
- Check your home for water leaks.
- Check your heating system & replace your furnace filter.
- If you put plastic on the outsides of windows, now would be a good time before it gets too cold.
- Check smoke alarm batteries.
- Clean your gutters.
- Remember to turn your clocks back an hour Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

## Not Too Early To Think About CHRISTMAS!

Put a great gift under the tree this year.

Give the gift of lawn care to your friends and loved ones. They'll thank you now, and they'll love it when they have a toe tickling lawn next season!



*Thank you for your business!  
Also a big thank you for voting us  
one of your Local Best  
11 years in a row!*

***\*We'll see you next year!\****

From your friends at Green 4 Ever:  
Derek, Andy, April, Brandon, Dave,  
David, Matt, Mistie & Tamme