



Pre-Winter Lawn & landscape Chores

Now that we have had a major leaf drop in Southern Maryland, it is time to start thinking about preparing the lawn and landscape for the long winter months ahead. Here are some suggestions to get the lawn and landscape through the cold weather:

- 1) Rake the leaves!!! There is no better way to kill your lawn than to leave the leaves down under snow all winter long. Don't allow the leaves to settle to the soil surface as it will smother the grass and cause bare spots. Be sure to clean up sticks and other debris as well.
- 2) Mow the lawn a little shorter than normal. Mowing for the last time at 2-2 ½" will remove excess top growth and promote photosynthesis.
- 3) Give the lawn and landscape one last good drink. All plants this time of year are "hardening off" before they go into dormancy. Watering will provide much need moisture and help prevent winter desiccation. It will also help the lawn use the winter feeding we applied with you winter application.
- 4) If you have an underground sprinkler system, be sure to get it winterized before the first freeze. You will have major problems with broken pipes if you do not blow the system out. Also, purge all hoses and store them in the garage out of the cold. Your hoses will last longer if they are stored out of the cold weather.
- 5) Turn off the outside water supply with the gate valve that feeds it on the inside of the house, and open the valve on your hose bib to allow it to drain.
- 6) Consider pruning your deciduous trees (the ones that loose their leaves) over the winter while they are dormant. This job is better done by a licensed professional.

Following these basic tips will help your lawn and landscape through the winter months ahead.