



## Easy Fall Lawn Care

Fall is a great time to give your lawn that extra boost it needs to make it through the winter months. Cool-season grasses especially need a fall feeding to get ready for next spring. Below are a few tips on how to winterize your lawn. Lowe's is happy to provide this information as a service to you.

### Fertilizing

- Cool-season [grasses](#) such as ryegrass, fescue, and bluegrass should be [fertilized](#) in September, October, or November.
- Warm-season [grasses](#) such as Bermuda, Bahia, centipede, St. Augustine, and Zoysia should be [fertilized](#) in July, August, or September. Do not over-fertilize centipede.
- Specially formulated winterizing [fertilizers](#) are higher in potassium than regular lawn food. Potassium is the nutrient that makes grasses more winter hardy. Winterizers should be applied as the last fertilizer application of the growing season.

### Controlling Lawn Disease, Weeds, and Insects

- To help prevent lawn [diseases](#) during the fall and winter, be sure to remove leaves from your yard. Leaves left on the lawn encourage disease by preventing sunlight and air from reaching the grass. Either rake the leaves and add them to a compost pile, or go over them with a mulching mower, chopping them into a fine compost for your grass.
- For [weed](#) control during the winter months, apply a pre-emergence weed killer. Some products feature a combination fertilizer and weed killer, called weed and feed.

### Mowing and Watering

- There is no need to water your warm-season lawn during the winter - most grasses go into dormancy.
- Before putting the warm-season lawn to bed for the winter, lower the mower to an inch below normal setting and use a grass catcher attachment. This will pick up any weed seeds in the lawn and the closer cut will allow for better air circulation.

### Mulching and Composting

- The best time to [mulch](#) is early fall, spring and summer. Mulch retains heat and moisture.
- For best results throughout the growing season, use a lawn mower that can be easily converted from a mulcher to a bagging unit or leaf shredder.
- Get started on a home compost program. Save lawn waste (which includes grass clippings, shredded leaves and chopped brush) for the compost bin.

## Winter Green

- With the first [freeze](#), a warm season lawn begins to change from green to brown. This period of dormancy is part of the natural life cycle of turfgrass. If you find an amber field undesirable, there is a choice. Fall is a great time to [overseed](#) your dormant lawn to maintain a green appearance.
- [Overseed](#) with annual or perennial ryegrass or blends of cool season grasses. Bermuda grass tolerates overseeding better than Zoysia, centipede, or St. Augustine. Time the overseeding 2-4 weeks before the first killing frost. Annual ryegrass is often chosen because of its quick rate of germination. Perennial ryegrass is more tolerant of cold, disease, and drought.

## Ground Covers

- There are options for locations in your yard that may be too shady or moist to grow healthy grass. Fall is a great time to plant perennial ground covers such as mondo grass, lirioppe and juniper to fill the void. They will cover the area year-round and reduce the amount of grass you must maintain.

Was this information helpful? Please [let us know](#) your do-it-yourself experiences. We'd love to hear from you!

These How-To's are provided as a service from Lowe's, the Original Home Improvement Warehouse of How-To information for the World Wide Web. The information in Lowe's "How-To" clinics is intended to simplify jobs around the house. Tools, products, materials, techniques, building codes and local regulations change; therefore, Lowe's assumes no liability for omissions, errors or the outcome of any project. The reader must always exercise reasonable caution, follow current codes and regulations that may apply, and is urged to consult with a licensed professional if in doubt about any procedures. [Please read our terms of use.](#)