



# HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

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## Lawn Tips

### Culture

- Leave your rake in the shed this fall! Leaves that fall onto the lawn can be shredded with a lawnmower and left to decompose naturally. The decomposing leaves will release nutrients and add organic matter to the soil; they will not hurt the turf. However, deep piles of leaves need to be removed or turf crowns may smother and die.
- Broadleaf weeds are growing vigorously with a return to cooler, wetter weather and can be effectively controlled with spot applications of labeled herbicides. Don't apply herbicides to areas that you will be re-seeding.
- Crabgrass is forming seed heads at this time. It will then die and can be easily removed by hand. It's too late to apply post-emergent crabgrass herbicides. Control severe crabgrass problems next spring by applying a pre-emergent herbicide. Over-seeding your lawn to thicken the turf will also help combat crabgrass.
- Mid-August through mid-October is the best time to start new lawns and renovate or overseed existing lawns. Use a turf-type tall fescue cultivar at a rate of 4 lbs. of seed per 1,000 sq. ft. of area for overseeding, or 8 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. for new lawns. Mow the turf very low and rake out dead turf before reseeding. Keep the reseeded areas well-watered until seedlings emerge. If your lawn area contains more than 50% weeds, consider a total lawn renovation.
- Cool season grasses, like bluegrass and fescue, should be fertilized in September, October and November with ½ - 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet each month. Apply no more than 2.5 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. in total. If it is necessary to apply lime, spread it after all fertilizer has been applied and before the ground freezes. A soil test will tell you the amount of lime required.

**Have a pest or gardening question? Call the Home and Garden Information Center  
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