

OSU EXTENSION NEWS

December lawn care

As we quickly approach the month of December, now is a great time to look at some basic winter horticulture activities. Before you get to deep into buying all those Christmas gifts, make sure you have finished all the fall lawn chores. The following is “small” list of things we need to do in December to keep our yard looking great through the winter and into next spring.



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OSU EXTENSION

LAWN AND TURF CARE

- Fertilize cool season grasses like fescue with 1lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. This will kick the fescue into high gear.
- Mow cool-season lawns at the height of 2 inches and water during dry conditions.
- Control broadleaf winter weeds like dandelions. 2-4, D will work well, along with several other broadleaf herbicides.



TREE AND SHRUBS

- Prune deciduous trees in the early part of winter. Prune only for structural and safety purposes.
- Wrap young, thin-barked trees with a commercial protective material to prevent winter sunscald.
- Apply dormant oil for scale infested trees and shrubs before temperatures fall below 40°F.
- Continue to plant balled and burlapped trees. These trees needed to be planted before November 15, if possible.

Miscellaneous:

- Tulips can still be successfully planted through the middle of November.
- Leftover garden seeds can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer until next planting season. Discard seeds over 3 years old.
- Gather and shred leaves. Add to compost, use as mulch or till into garden plots.

And as always happy fall gardening!

