



# Fall Fertilizing

## ANALYZE BEFORE YOU FERTILIZE

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
When it rains, the water takes excess fertilizer from lawns, driveways, sidewalks, and streets directly to our rivers and lakes  
**UNTREATED**

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### Fertilizing Calendar

#### Late Fall = October or November

- This is the most important fertilizer application; apply fertilizer with the highest rates of nitrogen in October or November. Fall fertilizer applications should be made when the average daily temperature drops to 50 degrees Fahrenheit



#### Early Spring = Late April or Early May

Depending on when snow melts, fertilize lawns late in April to early May

#### Summer = None

- Contrary to popular belief, you should not fertilize during the summer as doing so encourages pests and frequent mowing while discouraging healthy root growth.

#### Fall = September

- Fertilize in September, using a lawn fertilizer blended with a broadleaf weed control agent
- Shelley Elmsblad "Fertilizing Your Lawn on a Budget"

**Why Fertilize in the Fall?**

Fall fertilization is best because the lawn has passed through the stressful summer months and needs food to rebuild itself. During the fall season there is less competition from weeds, insects and diseases. Nutrients are required to take full advantage of the cool weather growth period to restore the lawn to full health and prepare it for the next summer.

Deleted: With the trowel or spade in the soil, push the handle of the trowel or spade forward to make a wide opening. Cut a thin slice from the side of the opening that is of uniform thickness -- about ¼ inch thick and 2 inches wide, extending from the top of the ground to the depth of the cut. Scrape away any grass thatch or mulch, and place the slice of soil into a clean bucket or other container. After the soil is taken, remove the shovel or spade and let the soil fall back in place.

### Other methods to keep a healthy lawn



**Keep local rivers and lakes clean**

- Use low-phosphorus or phosphorus-free fertilizers
- Never dispose of fertilizer down the storm drain
- Sweep up any excess fertilizer and put back on the lawn or dispose of properly

- Get a Soil Test and follow the recommendations
- Mow with sharp blades set at 2 ½ to 3 inches and leave clippings on the lawn
- Sweep up grass clippings from street, sidewalk, and driveway and return to lawn
- Calibrate your spreader correctly (for more information <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/A2306.pdf>)

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