

# Fall Lawn Care

Fall is the best time to fertilize lawns and control weeds. Here are some tips for keeping a healthy fall lawn that looks nice and protects the health of nearby lakes and streams:

**Mow** – Mow often, leave clippings on the lawn and leave your grass 2.5 to 3 inches high. This strengthens roots and retains moisture for a green, resilient lawn.

**Fertilize** – Mid-to late October is the best time to fertilize your lawn. Fertilizer provides grass with nutrients for spring growth. Use “zero phosphorus” fertilizer (look for a middle number of 0 on the package). Water your lawn for 1 to 2 hours after application.

**Control Weeds** – September is the best time to treat dandelions, plantain, clover and creeping Charlie. Limited numbers of weeds should be removed by hand or spot-treated with herbicide.

**Sweep up** - Sweep up and reuse lawn care products that fall on streets, sidewalks and driveways

**Rake** – Rake leaves to keep them out of storm drains and nearby water bodies, where they release phosphorus and other unwanted nutrients. Keep them away from driveways, streets and sidewalks.

**What to do with leaves** – There are a few ways you can get rid of leaves:

- Compost – Recycles nutrients
- Mulch – Use leaves as mulch, either whole or shredded
- Mow – If there is less than 2 inches of leaves on your lawn, leave them in place and make several passes over them with a power mower. This provides your lawn valuable nutrients and makes it look like you just raked!
- Bag – Rake and bag your leaves for pick-up or drop off in the City’s compost pile.

