

# Lawn care isn't just a summer affair

The work you invest in September, October and November will not only keep your lawn looking beautiful all fall, but ensure it has a proper foundation for healthy growth come spring. Hold onto the last days of summer with these fall lawn care tips from The Home Depot Canada:

**Keep on cutting** – Grass needs to be cut and maintained regularly until it stops growing (depending on where you live, this should be in

October or early November). When your lawn is still growing, it needs at least a half inch of water each week to continue to build up its root system going into winter. So if it is a dry fall, keep the sprinkler handy.

**Fertilize freely** – September and October are ideal months to apply fertilizer to keep your lawn well-fed in advance of winter. Using a fertilizer like Vigoro Ultra Turf Fall Fertilizer will help maintain root growth, and provide vital nutrients

that can be stored once the ground freezes.

**Pre-plant** – Early fall is the perfect time to seed a lawn that might be in need of some repair. Weeds that come with warm weather will die off as the weather cools, providing more lawn space for new grass to grow. If the grass can sprout in the fall, it will most likely come back healthy and full in the spring.

**Keep it clean** – Come fall, gardening tools should be cleaned and stored safely. Garage

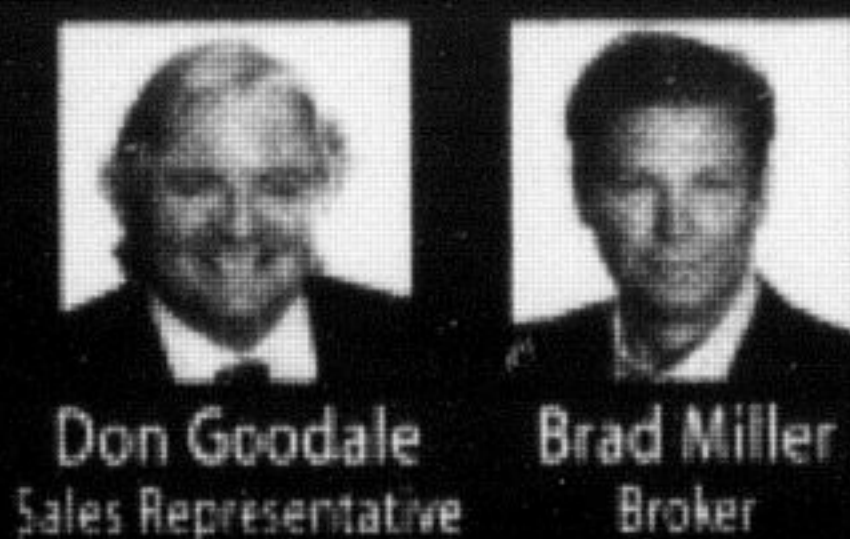
units, like the Workforce Tall Storage Cabinet, are ideal for making the most of the space available. With three adjustable shelves, four adjustable tool hangers and no tools required for assembly, this unit will keep your seasonal equipment neatly and safely organized.

For more helpful fall lawn and garden tips visit [www.homedepot.ca](http://www.homedepot.ca) or your local The Home Depot store.

[www.newscanada.com](http://www.newscanada.com)

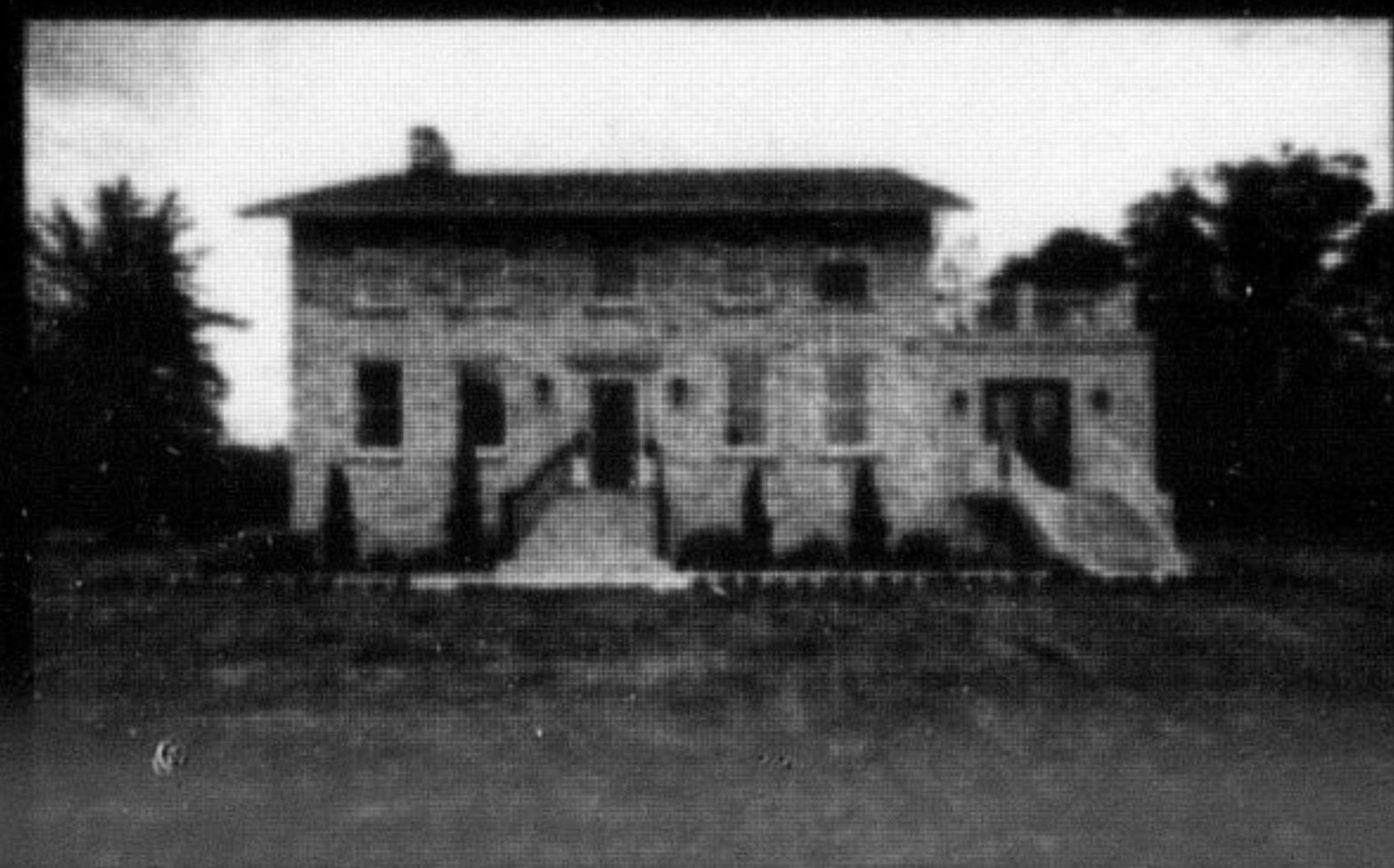
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## Flowerbeds and shrubs

Just a few thoughtful steps in the garden right now will lighten your load significantly next spring – and all your plants will benefit too.

"Many homeowners think there's nothing to be done once the weather turns chilly, but any extra care and nourishment you can give your property in the fall will help them thrive immediately once the snow melts away," says Syd Pell, a gardens specialist at Scotts. Here's his handy checklist to assist with the job:

- **Clean up the garden:** Remove debris and weeds from the ground.
- **Prune:** Shape trees and shrubs and cut off any dead wood.
- **Plant:** Autumn is the best time to plant new perennials, shrubs and trees. It gives them time to anchor and establish new roots and it's a great time to save money since many garden centres are clearing out their stock at substantial savings. Plant bulbs (pointy end up) in groups of three or five; about two-and-a-half times deeper than the size of the bulb.
- **Fertilize:** To promote root growth on transplants, use a high phosphate fertilizer, like Miracle-Gro Quick Start.
- **Rake:** Create a warm blanket of protection for your plants by raking autumn leaves onto flowerbeds and around shrubs. Or add a layer of mulch.
- **Mulch:** Apply two to three inches of it around new plants especially. It protects your

entire garden from harsh cold weather and the best mulch delivers nutrition. A product called NatureScapes is a natural wood chip mulch that slowly decomposes into beneficial organic matter, and it is guaranteed to keep its colour all season long.

• **Discourage nesting:** Eliminate a winter home for garden pests by tightly closing sheds, porches and clear away any items that provide shelter.

• **Store tools in perfect condition:**  
- Empty the bin of your fertilizer/seed spreader; repack leftover products and seal the packages tightly. Wash the spreader thoroughly with hot water to remove all clinging material and stubborn residue. Allow the spreader to dry thoroughly; lubricate the axle bushings with light oil and store it in a clean, dry location.

- Clean the gardening tools and sharpen all cutting edges, including your lawn mower blade. Lubricate all pivot points and spray bare metal and cutting edges with penetrating oil to prevent rust. Wipe wooden handles down with linseed oil.

- Store garden hoses by removing any attachments (like Miracle-Gro LiguaFeed or Garden Feeder) then drain the water thoroughly; coil and hang hoses so they won't sag or kink.

Additional information is available online at [www.scotts.ca](http://www.scotts.ca).

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