

ADVERTISING FEATURE

HOME & GARDEN

September to November is best time to fertilize your lawn

Summer may well be on its last legs, but there is still plenty to keep the backyard gardener busy this fall.

It won't be long before you're up to your ankles in dead leaves. Give them a good raking and run the lawn mower over them once or twice for the perfect addition to a compost pile.

A well-treed yard may produce too many leaves for the average compost pile to handle, but if you put them in chicken wire cage in the corner of the garden, they'll make a great mulch next spring.

Fall is also the time to dig up and divide some summer flowering perennials. Trim the plants to about six inches above the ground and water them well the day before you intend to divide them.

Then, gently using a garden fork to avoid unnecessary damage, dig out the entire root and shake off excess soil. Lay the roots on a table or newspaper, trim off any unhealthy looking pieces and cut the remaining root into smaller clumps.

Before you put the newly divided roots back into the ground, add mature compost or low-nitrogen fertilizer to the soil. The addition of coarse sand will help with drainage and peat moss will retain moisture.

All perennials do well with a protective mulch applied during the fall, as do ornamental plants and overwintering crops.

Perennials can also have their dead or woody stalks cut off or their foliage sheared back. Healthy debris can go into the compost, but avoid putting anything that looks like it might be diseased because the compost pile could be a breeding ground for pests.

At this time of year you can dig up plants such as coleus, with its colourful, variegated leaves and bring it inside as a houseplant for winter.

They'll thrive on bright, indirect light. Some herbs from the garden can also be potted and brought inside for a delightful kitchen window herb garden. Dig up dahlia tubers too and put them in paper bags full of damp peat moss to store over winter in a cool, dark

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place. The months of September to November are likely the most important time to fertilize your lawn with an extra, slow-release fertilizer, to give it a good feeding before it takes a long winter rest.

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Dethatching works well now if you haven't done it for a year or two and new lawns can be seeded or sodded successfully before the end of September.

Young dormant deciduous trees planted at this

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	STAIN REJECTION	REPEATED WASHINGS
	Number of stains removed out of 8	
FLAT		
Accolade®	7	666
Benjamin Moore Regal Wall	2	491
PPG Manor Hall	3	540
VELVET		
Accolade®	7	1,118
Benjamin Moore Aqua Velvet	4	417
PPG Manor Hall	3	443
SATIN		
Accolade®	7	1,053
Benjamin Moore Kitchen/Bath	5	917
No comparable PPG Manor Hall product		
SEMI-GLOSS		
Accolade®	6	787
Benjamin Moore Regal	4	922
PPG Manor Hall	3	400

*Stains tested include ketchup, mustard, wine, tea, grape juice, coffee, lipstick and crayon.