



Seeding BASICS

Seeding your lawn in the fall can be very successful...as long as it's done the right way!

First of all, it's important to use a high-quality, clean and certified seed. It may be tempting to go with a cheaper bag, but the low cost probably means that there are a lot of weed and unwanted perennial grass seeds in the mix.



Quality seed yields quality results.

It's also important to make sure the grass seed makes direct contact with the soil. When seed is simply tossed over the lawn, it lands on top of the thatch layer or on hard soil where it has a harder time germinating. For best results, it's a good idea to open up the soil first by hand raking, slice seeding or core aeration.

Finally, you'll need water for seeding success – and lots of it. Newly seeded areas should be watered at least once per day to keep the seedbed moist.

With the right seeding practices, you can look forward to a thick, green and beautiful stand of new turf when spring arrives!

Lawn Giving You Trouble? Punch It!

FULL OF HOLES, THAT IS.

Soil compaction, which results from heavy lawn use over time, can lead to decreased top growth and overall turf deterioration if steps aren't taken to correct it. When soil is compacted, the pore spaces that hold oxygen are reduced in size. Roots need this oxygen to grow, and they're literally starved of it in compacted soil.

The best way to relieve soil compaction is to have your lawn aerated yearly, and fall is a great time to do it. This process uses a machine known as a core aerator to remove cores of soil ½" to ¾" in diameter from your lawn. The holes that are made in your lawn will be anywhere from 1" to 6" deep, and the soil cores that are left behind will eventually dissolve back into the turf through rainfall or sprinkling.

Fall core aeration is one of the best things we can do for your lawn, and it will provide your turf with multiple benefits, including:

- Better rooting
- Increased flow of water, nutrients and oxygen to the roots
- Breakdown of the thatch layer, which can become harmful if it gets too thick
- Prevention of fertilizer and/or pesticide run-off in severely compacted areas

Be sure to send in your aeration slip or call the office to schedule. You, and your lawn, will be glad you did!



Fall Repairs to Rejuvenate Your Turf

ALL LAWNS CAN USE A LITTLE HELP

Fall is the perfect time for lawn repairs. Even if your turf looks like it doesn't need any help, there are certain things we can do to ensure continued healthy growth next spring.

Depending on the condition of your turfgrass this fall, we may recommend one of the following:

Core aeration with overseeding: By combining core aeration with overseeding, we can thicken up a thin lawn or add a more hardy, drought-resistant variety of grass to your property.

Slice seeding: Slice seeding deposits seed directly into the soil rather than spreading it out over the thatch layer (where it may not get a chance to sprout). This results in excellent germination rates and thicker growth. This service is especially beneficial in excessive Bermuda grass areas that go dormant in the winter.

Renovation: This includes killing off all existing turf or undesirable grasses, followed by aeration and slice seeding.

Any of these choices can lead to a thicker and healthier lawn next spring. For more information, or to schedule lawn repairs, call Rx Lawn Care Solutions today.



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FALL TIPS

- Clumps of perennials should be divided to control size, rejuvenate or propagate. However, fall-blooming varieties shouldn't be divided until spring.
- When applied in the fall, mulch helps to keep soil temperatures more steady through the winter. It also helps to retain moisture in the soil, which minimizes winter stress.
- Leaves should be removed from your lawn and planting beds. When mixed with soil and lime, they can be used to form compost for next year's gardening.
- Be sure to check your outside water spigots, and turn off any that you won't be using until spring.
- You can avoid broken patio containers by bringing them indoors, covering them up or emptying them for winter.

RX LAWN CARE
SOLUTIONS

Central Valley 209-545-2414

Tri-Valley 925-803-1122

Solano County 707-428-5296

Falling Into Garden Color

Fall may be fast approaching, but your flowering colors are far from finished. Of course, many summer flowers continue to bloom into fall, at least until the first hard frost. But here are a few specific fall favorites:

Chrysanthemums – No plants are more associated with autumn than chrysanthemums, better known as mums. Thousands of cultivars offer varying sizes and styles, from button mums to single or daisy mums. These perennials come in all colors, except blue. They're easy to care for and can be transplanted in bud or in full bloom.

Care: Mums need full sun and rich, well-drained soil. Feed them weekly during the growing season. Begin to pinch back at 5" tall to keep plants bushy. Divide plants every year.

Japanese Anemone – The popularity of these graceful flowers, which grow 2' to 2½' tall, is still increasing. Flowers come in pink, lavender, mauve and white with silken-looking petals that are perfect for cutting. They're tough, once established.



Chrysanthemums come in a variety of sizes and styles.

Care: Japanese anemones grow well in average soil, in full sun or partial shade. They need lots of water and a good winter mulch. Plant them in the spring, spaced 8" to 12" apart, for strong fall blooms.

Asters – The dark lavender and purple tones of these flowers, also known as Michaelmas daisies, bring a nice balance to the warm tones of mums. Grown widely by English gardeners, some flowers can stand 3' to 5' high.

There are many cultivars available.

Care: Asters bloom from late summer into fall. They grow in almost any soil. Either stake flowers to support stems or pinch plants back to keep them compact.

Try your hand at these fall-flowering colors today, or make some autumn discoveries of your own. The colors are there, just waiting to bloom!

Avoiding Landscape Decline

A scorching month of summer weather shows its results pretty fast on lawns and flowers. But did you know that your more deeply rooted trees and shrubs can suffer long-term (or even permanent) damage from weather extremes, too?

It's natural not to notice the changes happening to your larger landscape plants, because they appear more slowly, sometimes evolving over several years. Extremes in temperature, moisture and wind all take their toll.

For instance, a series of very dry winters, followed by hot and dry summers, can begin a process known as plant decline. Plants in decline begin to thin and produce smaller leaves. They may lose an excessive number of branches and generate more dead wood. Flowers decrease in size and number, and pests tend to increase due to weakened resistance.

Because these symptoms show up so slowly, they're often overlooked completely.

Nutrition is key

Regular feeding of your landscape plants will help to overcome some forms of decline and strengthen plants' resistance to disease and pests. Root feeding will stimulate recovery of the roots

and will promote new, vigorous growth. The process of feeding puts nutrients into the soil so that they can be easily picked up by the roots.

Your landscape is growing and changing all the time. It's affected by good and bad weather and can be very expensive to replace. Regular care should start with inspections and feeding. Let us know if you have any questions, or if you'd like a free estimate on our deep-root fertilization program.

