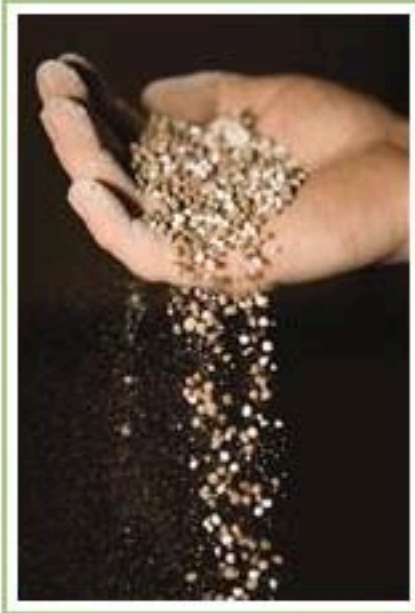


## There's No Better Time for Fertilization

### *Your Lawn, Trees and Shrubs Are Counting On It!*

It's a common misconception that plants stop growing in the fall, when really all that changes is the way in which plants grow. As cooler weather sets in, top growth slows down, with plants shifting their energy from foliage production to root expansion. In preparation for winter, your lawn, trees and shrubs strive to fill their expanded root systems with as many nutrients as possible. A heavy dose of fertilizer this fall will give them the nutrients they need.



### **LAWNS PREFER A FALL FEAST OVER A SPRING SMORGASBORD**

Your lawn needs regular fertilization throughout the growing season, with the biggest feeding taking place in the fall rather than the spring. Too much spring fertilizer can cause an unhealthy flush of growth that leaves turf more susceptible to insect and disease problems. It's likely to make extra mowing necessary as well.

A heavy fall fertilization, on the other hand, promotes a thicker, stronger root system rather than excessive top growth. This will lead to a greener, more vigorous lawn when spring returns.

### **YOUR TREES AND SHRUBS ARE OUT OF THEIR ELEMENT**

In their natural woodland habitat, trees and shrubs receive a constant supply of nutrients from soil that is rich in humus (organic matter). This organic matter is constantly replenished by decomposing leaves and other plant parts. In our landscapes, however, we remove leaves and other organic debris on a regular basis. This takes away our plants' natural nutrient supply. And since ornamental trees and shrubs are often subjected to unfavorable soil and environmental conditions, the need for fertilizer in our landscapes becomes even greater.

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With a heavy application of fertilizer in the fall, nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium are delivered to tree and shrub roots for improved color, growth, vigor and overall health. Even more importantly, fall fertilization improves your landscape plants' ability to stand up to pests, disease and the effects of drought, dry winter winds and other severe weather.

For optimum winter health and better-looking plants in the spring, fall fertilization from Handy Andy Outdoors, LLC really delivers. Feel free to give us a call with any questions you may have.

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## Getting Your Turf Back on Track

With the arrival of fall, all lawns can benefit from a "pick-me-up" to recover from the stresses of another summer season. On their own or in combination, heat, drought, insects, diseases and increased foot traffic can lead to thinning turf and bare patches where lush, green grass used to be.

### A WINNING COMBINATION

Aeration with overseeding is a tried-and-true method of repairing lawns suffering from summer stress. Fall is a great time to have us perform this service, since growing conditions are more favorable and there's less competition from weeds. Plus, any new grass planted in the fall will have plenty of time to get established before the taxing summer season returns.

### THE PROCESS

We'll make several passes over your lawn with a machine known as a core aerator. This machine will remove plugs (or cores) of soil and thatch from your lawn, creating holes through which air, water and fertilizer can more easily travel to the roots. With aeration, a stronger, deeper root system is encouraged; compacted soil is loosened up; and excessive thatch is broken down as the plugs dissolve through rainfall or watering.

Next, we'll overseed your lawn by broadcasting new grass seed throughout the turf with a spreader. The holes left behind by aeration will "catch" the seed and provide better seed-to-soil contact for improved germination rates. Please note: To ensure successful growth, the soil will need to be kept moist for several weeks after overseeding. If there's no rainfall, regular watering will be necessary.

Lawns that are aerated and overseeded in the fall will be stronger going into the winter months ahead. Plus, they'll be thicker, greener and much better prepared for any challenges next year's growing season throws their way. For more information on lawn renovations and how we can help, call Handy Andy Outdoors, LLC today.



# Spring Bulbs Should Be Planted Soon

As long as they're planned and planted correctly, spring bulbs will provide a beautiful color show next year with a minimum of maintenance requirements. In general, the planting window for spring bulbs is from mid-September to mid-October, which gives the bulbs enough time to grow roots before the ground freezes.



## CHOOSING A PLANTING SITE

Warmth and bright light are necessary to trigger good growth in the spring. Ideally, the planting site will be sheltered from cold winds, and low-lying areas that tend to collect frost should be avoided. The planting site should also receive lots of direct sunlight, both to encourage spring flowering, and to help the plants manufacture and store food for the following year's growth cycle. Planted in the right spot, bulbs can be expected to return year after year.

## PREPARING THE SOIL

Bulbs do best in soil that is rich and well drained. It's always a good idea to remove rocks and other debris. Then, organic matter can be added to the soil. Peat moss, compost and shredded leaf mulch all work well as soil amendments, and should be worked in to a depth of 10" to 12". Fertilizer can also be added, and should be thoroughly mixed in with the soil and organic matter. A good rule of thumb is to use a handful of fertilizer for every 10 to 12 bulbs.

## PLANTING THE BULBS

Bulbs look best in odd-numbered groups or in mass plantings. Planting depths and spacing vary depending on the bulbs being planted. They should be planted with the pointed end facing up, and the planting bed should be watered thoroughly once the soil fill has been added back into the planting holes.

Handy Andy Outdoors, LLC can design and install a spectacular spring bulb display on your property this fall. Then, all you have to do is wait for the beautiful spring blooms to arrive! Give us a call today to learn more.

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## Are You Fired Up for Fall?

Cooler nighttime temperatures don't have to put an end to outdoor enjoyment. With a fire pit or fireplace, you can extend the use of your outdoor space well into the fall and even winter. Depending on your goals and budget, there are all sorts of options in both styles and materials to meet your specific needs.



### FIRE PITS

Generally speaking, fire pits are more casual than fireplaces and lend themselves more easily to entertaining. They radiate more heat and can keep more people cozy in chilly weather. If you're looking for portability, free-standing, cast-iron fire pits with wheels can easily be moved out of the way when not in use. Or, if you'd like something more permanent, you might consider an actual pit dug into the ground with a gravel bottom and natural stones around the perimeter.

### FIREPLACES

For a more formal look, fireplaces can be constructed out of brick, stone and even concrete in a variety of colors. Venting hoods, shelves for decorative items and storage space for wood can be incorporated to improve both looks and functionality. For added appeal, the space around an outdoor fireplace can be designed to mimic a comfortable and inviting living room setting. Though they're a bit more costly than fire pits, fireplaces are an excellent way to increase the resale value of your property.

With an outdoor fire pit or fireplace, you'll be providing fire for all to admire! Give Handy Andy Outdoors, LLC a call to learn more about the many options available for your property.

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