



## **Fall Check List** ***For Your Lawn, Garden & Home***

With the fall season upon us – and winter right around the corner – it's a good time to tackle a few things around your home and yard. Here's a short check list:

**Feed Your Lawn** – Fall is the perfect time of year to fertilize, fight weeds, aerate and seed your lawn. Break this effort into two smaller tasks: (1) Fertilize and, as necessary, spray for broadleaf and grassy weeds; (2) aerate and seed.

**Spruce Up Your Flower Beds** - Fall is the perfect time to remove dying annuals from this past spring/summer, cut back perennials, remove debris, prep the soil (till, add soil conditioner and pre-emergent, as necessary), plant fall annuals (pansies, ornamental cabbage, etc.), freshen up your mulch.

Plant spring bulbs in late fall so you can enjoy them next spring but avoid planting tulips – the deer enjoy them too much. Aim to have everything planted NLT December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Leaves, Leaves, and More Leaves** – Peak fall foliage is expected to hit October 12<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> here in Northern Virginia. So whether you want to do a little at a time or rake/remove them all at once, you need to finalize your plan of attack. Your lawn will look better without them and your grass will be happier too.

**Clean Gutters Before Snow's Arrival** – Don't start this project until AFTER all your leaves come down. You will want to have your gutters free of leaves before winter's arrival to avoid any clogging, overflowing, or drainage issues. Keep your outdoor water on and a long garden hose available.

**Shut Off Water – Hoses, Faucets & Irrigation Systems** – Check and repair leaking spigots; drain, wrap-up and store your hose(s) (reminder – keep them out – and your water on – for gutter cleaning), and shut off outdoor water spigots for the winter.

Properly shut down your irrigation system to include servicing sprinkler heads; remove all excess water from pipes to avoid freezing, cracking or rupturing. Remember to turn off main water valve to system.