



September 1st, 2011

September is finally here and with it will come the possibility and hope of cooler weather. We know that October will be here soon enough and we can all come back outside again and enjoy doing yard work! Until then, there are many things you can do to prepare your yard for the fall.

LAWNS

Starting at the end of September and into October is the ideal time to over seed in the Phoenix area. If you plan on over seeding in the fall, you need to begin reducing the frequency of how often you water the lawn and stop fertilizing. Less food and water will help the lawn go into dormancy quicker. Mow your lawn to ½ inch high when you are ready to over seed. Next, spread the seed evenly over the lawn. Immediately after spreading the seed, apply Fertilome™ New Lawn Starter on top of the seed to increase the germination rate and provide the seed with a strong root base. Once the seed and starter fertilizer are down, the final step is covering with a mulch dressing. Start watering the seed immediately 3 to 5 times a day for a few minutes at a time. Avoid standing water. The key is to not let the seed dry out after water hits it the first time. Dry seed is dead seed.

When choosing a grass to over seed with in the fall you will find there are mainly two options available. The most common options are Annual and Perennial Ryegrass. Annual rye grass is a coarse, wide bladed grass. It is less expensive to buy but you get what you pay for. Annual rye grass is not heat tolerant, often dying out before your summer lawn comes out of dormancy in the spring. Annual is very wet, sticks to mower blades, and will stain easily. Perennial rye grass has great color, a much finer blade than annual, and is heat tolerant. We carry a mixed blend of three Perennial varieties. By blending varieties we are able to take advantage of the best characteristics of each. If you have always planted Annual and never tried perennial, we urge you to give it a try; you will never go back.

VEGETABLES

As soon as the temperatures drop below 100 degrees consistently you will be able to plant all of the cool weather vegetables. This could be mid-September or as late as early October. Now is a great time to get a jump on preparing your beds so they are prepped for when the weather cools down for good. If your vegetable garden has been left alone the past couple months it is a good idea to soak the beds a couple times deeply to leach out salts and restore soil moisture. If necessary, add mulch, compost, and organic material, such as Growmore™ Soil Builder to add life to your soil.

The following fruits and vegetables can be transplanted: tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, strawberries, lettuce, cabbage, brussel sprouts, celery, and chard.

The following seeds can be planted: broccoli, brussel sprouts, beets, celery, chard, carrots, cauliflower, collard greens, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, turnips, radishes, mustard, peas, green onions, parsnips, bok choy, and beans.

Starting in mid-September we will be receiving weekly shipments of fresh vegetable and herb plants from Bonnie Plants™.

FERTILIZING

TREES AND SHRUBS

Labor Day and mid-September will mark the last feeding of the year for most varieties of trees and shrubs. This last feeding will ensure your plants have the proper nutrients to grow through the fall into next spring. We recommend fertilizing with our Treeland Premium All-Purpose Fertilizer, which provides plants with the essential macronutrients such as Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium. It also has important micronutrients like Sulfur, Iron, and Zinc. Our premium blend is a granular product that delivers the necessary nutrients to plants with each watering. In addition, some plants, such as Hibiscus require an iron supplements along with our All-Purpose fertilizer.

CITRUS

Our All-Purpose Fertilizer is based off of a citrus blend and when used with gypsum will provide citrus trees with the necessary nutrients to develop large quality fruit. Gypsum acts as a soil conditioner to loosen our clay soil, but more importantly, it adds calcium to the soil which the tree uses for growth and fruit development. If you notice your citrus has fruit that has split, this is caused by inadequate or irregular watering during the summer.

QUEEN PALMS

We use and recommend a combination of two different products to cure Queen Palm problems: Treeland Premium All-Purpose Fertilizer and Growmore Palm Food Micronutrients. Growmore Palm Food Micronutrients supplies palms with the right amount of micros such as Manganese, Magnesium, Iron, Zinc, and Sulfur. Usually you have to buy each of these separately, but this one product contains them all in an easy to apply liquid form.

Through September we are running a special Queen Palm Combo when you purchase our Treeland Premium All-Purpose Fertilizer and Growmore Palm Food Micronutrients. One forty pound All-Purpose fertilizer combined with one gallon of the micronutrients will feed 6 to 10 palms depending on their size.

WATERING

While the temperatures remain high, continue to water shrubs and groundcovers twice a week to a depth of 12 to 24 inches depending on their size. Water established trees once a week to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. For most drip systems this will entail running the system for 2 hours or more at each watering. Water your lawn to a depth of 6 to 8 inches at each watering and only twice a week.

When watering mature trees, it is important to focus on putting most of the water on the outer canopy line of the tree and not at the base of the tree.