

5 tips for prepping a lawn for the winter

How homeowners treat a yard this autumn can determine the quality of their yard next spring and summer. Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, offers up the following checklist for homeowners who want to lay a strong groundwork for a great yard next spring:

1.) Keep mowing

Grass still needs regular care to stay healthy. Grass that is too high may attract lawn-damaging field mice. Shorter grass is more resistant to diseases and traps fewer falling leaves. Cutting the grass low also allows

more sun to reach the crown of the grass. However, cutting off too much at one time can be damaging, so never trim more than a third of the grass blades off in a single cutting, Kiser says. Put mower blades on the lowest settings for the last two cuts of the season.

2.) Aerate your lawn

Compressed soil can hurt the health of the grass. Aerating punches holes in the soil and lets oxygen, water, and nutrients into a lawn. Use a walk-behind aerator or get an attachment to pull behind a riding mower, Kiser suggests.

3.) Mulch your leaves

Many mowers can mulch leaves with an attachment. Since mulching with a mower can mix grass clippings with leaf particles, these nitrogen-rich grass particles and carbon-rich leaf particles will compost more quickly. They can then return nutrients to the soil.

4.) Trim and shore up trees and bushes

Use trimmers, chainsaws, or pole pruners to cut back trees, shrubs, and plants. Make sure branches are safely trimmed back from overhead lines and

not in danger of falling on a home or structure in winter weather. You may need to tie or brace limbs of upright evergreens or plants to prevent them from breaking in high winds or snow. Call a professional arborist for big trees or hard-to-reach spots.

5.) Repair bald spots

Fall is a great time to patch bald or thin spots in a lawn. The easiest way to do this is with an all-in-one lawn repair mixture (found at most garden shops and home centers), Kiser says. Use a garden rake or dethatcher to scratch loose the soil on the spot.

Source: National Association of Realtors

Open HOUSES

Open Houses Sunday, September 8, 2019



5 Michael Court, Culloden
\$339,000
 2:00-4:00 PM

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 DIRECTIONS: Rt. 60 towards Milton, left on James River Turnpike (across from Dollar General), left on Cornerstone to Michael.

Joy Jenkins
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REDUCED
914 Hughes Drive, Saint Albans
\$153,000
 2:00-4:00 PM

This nice home features 4 BR's, 2.5 BA's, living room open to dining room plus eat-in kitchen. Great storage and closet space, large family rm with fireplace, new roof, new carpeting, double decks, private 3/4 acre back lot-wooded but could be cleared, 2 car garage, located on a nice cul-de-sac street. With a few more updates and your personal touches this will be a beautiful home!
 DIRECTIONS: St. Albans Kanawha Terrace to Hughes Dr, house on the left

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30 Wysteria Lane, Scott Depot
\$599,900
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Magnificent Steorts built , one story, all brick, open concept w/hardwood floors on .55 acre lot in the heart of Teays Valley. Convenient to shopping & located between exit #39 and #40. Extra large bonus room/game room/possible media room. Very light & bright floor plan. A must see!
 DIRECTIONS: I-64 exit #40. left on Rt.35, right on Teays Valley Road, right into the Cottages of Tyler Valley to right on Tyler Way.

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6009 Pinnacle View Drive, Hurricane
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 DIRECTIONS: I-64 Winfield exit #39, left on Rt.34S, right on Cow Creek, right into Woodridge Estates, left on Crestmont, left on Pinnacle View.

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