DEANS SERVICES Buzz
Vol. XII, Issue 11

Autumn Adjustments

Temperatures may be dropping...but our attention to our lawns should not. In fact, this change in weather is just the time to make a few proactive adjustments to your lawn care. Here at Deans we'll be adjusting our applications, but if you tackle the chore of lawn fertilization yourself, we hope you'll review these tips so that you'll have a great looking lawn too.

A Fall Fungus

Cool temperatures and damp conditions increase the risk of fungus problems. Brown Patch Fungus is an especially prevalent fungus in Zoysia and St. Augustine lawns.

Symptoms of Brown Patch begin with round, discolored patches that slowly expand. The center is usually brown

and sunken, but if the turf is recovering you may notice new green growth there too. Patches continue to expand in the spring, until temperatures climb above 80°. In summer, the damaged areas may fill in, but if the problem was never addressed, the fungus will return each fall.

If you're using Deans, expect an adjusted nitrogen level to inhibit fungal growth. We'll also be adding a specialized fungicide to work against any existing problem areas. If you notice Brown Patch, be sure to take control measures quickly or notify Deans and ask about our Lawn Fertilization program.

Water Wisely

During cooler months, your grass doesn't require as much water, and so the root systems won't absorb as readily. Reduce watering to twice per week once temperatures are consis-tently below 85 degrees and be sure to set your irrigation to finish running right at sunrise. This ensures that excess water will evaporate rather than contribute to fungus growth.

Careful adjustments to nutrient levels and irrigation practices will promote a healthy root system and fight disease at a time when your lawn needs it most. By entrusting Deans with your lawn, you'll help keep your turf healthy through the cold for an earlier and more impressive spring!

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RECOMMENDED WATERING SCHEDULE

		per week	PGP	MP
86°+	3/4″	3	45 mins	105 mins
76-85°	1/2″	2	30 mins	70 mins
46-75°	1/2″	1	30 mins	70 mins
< 46°	Do not water			

- PGP (Professional Grade Pop-up) heads have a higher output.
- MP (Matched Precipitation) sprinklers have a lower output
- Established ornamentals require 20 minutes, twice per week.
- Suggestions are approximate. Local restrictions may apply.

The Bug-Repelling Butterfly

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There are approximately 17,500 species of butterflies around the world, and about 200 of them can be found in the state of Florida.

Among them is the zebra longwing butterfly which was designated as Florida's official state butterfly.

Named for its zebra-like striped wings, you've likely noticed them gracefully fluttering from flower to flower as they pollinate. While most butterfly diets are limited to nectar, zebra longwings can eat pollen as well. The protein of the pollen allows them to live for up to 6 months – significantly longer than the average butterfly lifespan of about 3 weeks. But these butterflies have another dietary supplement that helps them survive the hidden perils of the garden.

Just like actual zebras of the savannahs, zebra longwings are susceptible to attacks from predators. To ward off the likes of spiders, wasps, and ants, they've adopted their very own method of natural pest control.

As caterpillars, zebra longwings eat the leaves of the passionflower. This striking flower found in the southern US provides the developing caterpillar with a supply of pest-repelling toxins which helps them stay safe from hungry predators; and once they emerge as an adult, this threat is clearly advertised.

The zebra longwing is an exquisite insect, but their attractive pattern serves as more than mere aesthetics. Like the yellow and black stripes of caution tape surrounding a construction site, the longwings coloring is a warning to predators and it helps keep itself and others safe.

Pests like wasps, spiders, and ants can threaten our safety as well, especially when they invade our home. Thankfully with the coverage Deans pro-vides, you can feel safe from these and many more pests!

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