

Fall Yard Care in Ohio (Nature friendly)



Wondering what to do for nature this fall?

The less, the better...

Finally, a great reason to procrastinate!

Fall To-Do List

- Keep leaves in beds as a natural mulch & for Beneficial insects
- Mulch leaves with grass clippings for natural lawn enrichment
- Apply Corn gluten to the lawn when it first turns cold
- Apply organic lawn fertilizer during rapid root growth, from September to hard frost
- Leave seed heads and native grasses standing until Mother's Day for birds to eat and for winter cover
- Leave plant materials for spring bird nest creation
- Remove lawn 'green desert' to add garden space (See Tip below)
- Remove invasive, exotic plants
- Plant plugs of native perennials (best suited to Ohio, wildlife depends on them)
- Propagate desirable plants (by seed, by cuttings, etc.)
- Divide older, spring-blooming perennials
- Make a small brush pile in an out-of-the-way corner for winter cover
- Clean feeders & baths with water and a 10% bleach solution and rinse, rinse, rinse

Don't break your back!

To remove lawn, which has little wildlife value (green desert) for garden space:

1. Overlap 6-10 layers black & white newspaper and wet thoroughly
2. Cover with 4-6" shredded hardwood mulch or dirt for 4-6 weeks
3. Newspaper should break down before spring, or plant now directly through mulch and newspaper

Learn More

- Wildlife-Friendly yard tips and certification:
www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife
- Worst Invasive Plants in Ohio: Ohio Invasive Plants Council:
www.oipc.info