



Fact #1:

Americans typically refer to this time of year as “fall,” while the British use the word “autumn.” Both terms date back to the 16th century but before that it was called “harvest.”

Fact #2:

Fall was called “harvest” because of the “harvest moon” that occurs when the full moon is closest to the autumn equinox. Before man-made lighting, this moonlight was essential to a prosperous harvest.

Fact #3:

The yellow and orange colors you see actually always exist in leaves but they are overpowered by the abundance of green from chlorophyll. The amount of chlorophyll starts to decrease as the sun weakens and the days grow shorter.

Fact #4:

Evergreen trees such as pines, cedars, and spruces stay green because their leaves (needles) are covered with thick wax and they contain materials that prevent freezing when it gets cold.

Fact #5:

We can't forget Halloween! Halloween takes place in the fall and comes from ancient Celtic tradition. They believed that ghosts roamed on Halloween and people would wear disguises in order to hide from these spirits.



INSIDE STORY

*The Fall 'Inside Story' from
Maintenance Manager
Byron Phipps*

With less than a month left of summer, fall will be here before you can say, autumn. Just picture a fall display with mums and pumpkins with colorful leaves swirling around, all accentuated by a lush green lawn.

Autumn is the time to help the cool season grasses recuperate from the stresses of summers perils: heat, insects, and fungi from all the rain. To accomplish this, it is much easier than one might think.

Here is a few quick tips to start: Keep the lawn free of leaves. They will suffocate the existing grass. Keep the grass mowed at three inches. This is the optimal height for tall fescue.

Keep watering! Water is an vital element in the growth of grass. This is the time when the tall fescue growth takes off. Most lawns need up to 1” of water, including rainfall. So keep watering until the temperatures drop into the 30's.

Most importantly, aerate! The kids loved playing in the grass, the mowers have run over the lawn several times, the holiday barbeques were fun, but the ground has become compacted. Aerating the lawn breaks up the ground and allows for oxygen to get into the roots.

But what about the holes it makes in the yard? Now's the time to throw out new seed. The seed will fall into the holes created by the aerator and have a greater chance of rooting. Always read the seed tag for quality and expiration.

Feed your grass. Nitrogen is an essential element in the “green-ness” of grass. Potassium helps with cellular development and phosphorus is important for establishing the root system and new blade growth.

Finally, top it off with some all-natural turf stimulant. It provides micronutrients and organisms that grasses need to grow to their full-potential.

Seems complicated? Give Byron a call at (828) 438-8243 and he will be more than happy to assist you with your needs and wants to keep your lawn looking it's best all fall and winter long!

COMPANY NOTE: Byron has been with us almost 3 years. We appreciate his dedication and loyalty to our Naturescapes family. Thanks Byron for your outstanding work!

