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Fall Lawn Care

What to do with all these leaves?

Fall is a beautiful time of year, but as far as your lawn is concerned, it is better if leaves are kept off your grass for any great length of time. They should definitely be removed by the first freeze.

Water or not to water?

At this time of year, in late fall it is good to have your lawn adequately moist before the ground freezes hard. We've had a dry fall this year, so you can definitely still water your lawn.

Mowing

Now is the time to drop your mower blade a notch if you haven't done so already. 1-1/2" height should be adequate. If you have a newly seeded lawn or you have over-seeded you can still mow, just make sure your mower blades are sharp.

Decorating Your Garden for Fall

Autumn is a beautiful time of year. Not only is it a true change of season with all the colors of nature, but it is also the Harvest Season. It's a great time for decorating - indoors and out!

A true sign of the Harvest Season is all the wonderful types of squash and pumpkins available. These fleshy fruits, available in all sizes, not only make a wonderful addition to your door step, but you can also add them to your window boxes and planters. Their bright skins add instant seasonal color. You can also hollow them out and use as a unique planter. Then you can fill them with plants, smaller squash, or apples.

There is also a wide variety of cut branches and grasses you can use in decorating - you may even already have them on hand from your own garden.

The following make excellent decorations on their own or in combination with other themes: Bittersweet, Rosehips, Copper-beech, Pepper-berry, and Eucalyptus. For an easy transitional look, you can always use straw-bales, corn stalks, and scarecrows for your front entryway.

A Fence Bid

Three contractors were visiting a tourist attraction on the same day. At the end of the tour, a guard asked them what they did for a living. When they all replied they were contractors the guard said, "Hey, we need one of the rear fences redone. Why don't you guys take a look at it and give me a bid?"

The first contractor took out his tape measure and pencil, did some measuring and said, "Well I figure the job will run about \$900. \$400 for materials, \$400 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me."

The second contractor took out his tape measure and pencil, did some quick figuring and said, "Looks like I can do this job for \$700. \$300 for materials, \$300 for my crew, and \$100 profit for me."

Without so much as moving, the third contractor said, "\$2,700."

The guard, incredulous, looked at the third contractor and said, "You didn't even measure like the other guys! How did you come up with such a high figure?"

"Easy," he said. "\$1,000 for me, \$1,000 for you, and we hire the guy from Texas."



The Basics on Black Mold

Mold spores are everywhere and cannot be avoided. They float in through your open windows and doors, or come inside by riding on your clothing or your pets. Real problems in homes and buildings rarely occur unless there has been intense flooding, usually in basements, sometimes from leaky roofs, or where there has been an extensive plumbing problem.



If spores land on a moist or damp surface, usually in a poorly lit area – they can grow. So the key to mold control is moisture control. Water-damaged areas must be dried within 48 hours to prevent mold and mildew growth.

Most people have a natural immunity to antigens present in mold, but some are more sensitive than others – and a moldy home is not a healthy home.

The most common health concerns include symptoms similar to hay fever.

Others may experience respiratory difficulties or skin and eye irritations. There are some reported extreme reactions, too, but those are rare and have yet to be attributed directly to mold.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, determining the level of health risk is mostly a factor of examining the individuals.

However, exposure to mold is not a desirable living condition and it should be removed, just like you would also throw away moldy bread without eating it.

Bakers' Hints

From rolls to dessert, these tips will help you turn out perfect baked goods for every course of your meal.

- Preheat your oven before you mix the ingredients or, for yeast breads, after rising.
- Measure liquid ingredients in a glass measure on a flat surface.
- Measure dry ingredients in a dry measuring cup, leveling the top with a straight-edged blade.
- Stir/sift all-purpose flour before measuring.
- Choose your bake-ware according to its browning ability. Shiny bake-ware reflects heat and slows the browning process, making it ideal for shortbread and soft-crust breads. Cookware with a dull finish and glass baking dishes will absorb more heat and brown crusts much more quickly, which is perfect for piecrusts, cookies, coffee cakes, and crusty breads.
- When making cutouts, try to get as many biscuits or cookies as you can from the first rolling. Too many re-rolling may cause the dough to become tough and dry.
- For yeast breads, use active dry yeast that has not passed its expiration date and a thermometer to make sure the heat of the liquid won't kill the yeast.
- Grease muffin cups and baking pans on the bottoms and only halfway up the sides to prevent unwanted rims around the edges of quick breads.
- For even baking, bake on one rack of your oven and allow space between baking sheets or dishes for the warm air to circulate.
- To avoid soggy sides and bottoms, cool baked foods in the pans only as long as the recipe directs, then transfer the baked goods to a wire rack to finish cooling.



Call me for more information on these and other currently listed homes in your area!

ADDRESS	BEDROOMS/ BATHROOMS	SQ. FT.	LISTED PRICE
930 Arcade Blvd.	3/1	1183	\$ 59,900
6711 Barkley Way	3-4/2	1404	\$ 114,900
7517 Lindale Drive	4/3	1735	\$ 129,900
8570 Willow Grove Way	3/2	1441	\$ 149,900
745 Parkhaven Way	3/2	1352	\$ 179,900
34 Greenway Circle	5/3	2545	\$ 329,900
3920 Elm Street	3/1	1106	\$ 99,900
6891 N Sundown Drive	2/2	1512	\$ 20,000
169 Creekside Circle	3/3	1401	\$ 99,900