

The Family Tree

AUTUMN 2015

ACT NOW FOR THE BEST LAWN EVER NEXT YEAR

FALL AERATION, OVERSEEDING, AND TOPDRESSING

Want to have a lush lawn next year? Aerate and seed it now! Autumn is the best time of year for core aeration, and the cooler temperatures and moisture level are favorable for seeding, too.

Core aeration, which breaks up the thatch and ground, allows grass seed to go deeper into the soil. This helps with germination as seed falls into the plug holes and begins to grow, thickening your lawn.

Even a core aeration by itself every year or two can benefit your lawn. Because it breaks up thatch and relieves compaction in the soil, it helps water and fertilizer reach grass at the root level. It also allows roots to spread and get stronger.

Introducing new seed varieties to add different types of grass to your lawn can also give your lawn a boost. Newer varieties of grass are less susceptible to disease and grow greener than older varieties.

And don't forget the perks of topdressing. Topdressing breathes new life into soils that are low in nutrients. It adds beneficial organic material, helping lawns thrive. Topdressing can also correct bare spots—just sprinkle seed where grass is needed and apply the topdressing.

Talk with us today about fall core aeration, seeding, and topdressing services **to ensure a beautiful lawn next year!**



3

SIMPLE
TOP-OF-MIND
LAWN CARE
TIPS FOR FALL

Get a head start on a great lawn in 2016 by doing these three things now.



STOP WEEDS BEFORE THEY START WITH BROADLEAF WEED CONTROL.

Fall is the best time to apply weed treatments because they tackle perennial weeds—like dandelions. Treating your lawn for those types of weeds is especially effective in the fall, because it controls them before they can store enough nutrients to survive the winter. Getting rid of wild violets is best done in autumn, too. The waxy coating they put on in summer wears off in the fall, so they're less resistant to treatment.

FERTILIZE YOUR GRASS TO JUMP-START SPRING GROWTH.

In the fall, when its growth slows down, grass pulls more nutrients into

its root system to prepare for winter. By fertilizing your grass in the fall, you'll make the most of that window of time when grass absorbs nutrients more efficiently. The result: a stronger root system and a healthier lawn in the spring.



ADJUST YOUR MOWER'S BLADE HEIGHT.

While in the summer it's best to keep your lawn at 3 to 3½ inches tall so it can shade itself from the scorching sun. For the last mowing of the fall season, reduce the mowing height to approximately 2 inches. That will help prevent falling leaves from sticking to it and help protect against snow mold.



**World-class care.
Right in your backyard.**

Follow us to get valuable information and timely expert advice.



Announcing Our New Working Relationship with Stauffers of Kissel Hill!



We're honored to work closely with Stauffers of Kissel Hill, a highly respected organization with a strong commitment to quality and the local community.

What do you need to know about the Emerald Ash Borer?

Find out in our new video!

 AreMyTreesInDanger.com (or scan this)



P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Dear Heritage Customers,

We are very fortunate to have a family-like work atmosphere at our company. Our Heritage family faced an overwhelming emotional challenge with the death of our co-worker **Tom Snyder** in early August. It has been difficult to process seeing a colleague leave at the end of his day's work and then never see him return.



Tom was part of our work family for 10 years, heavily involved in our landscaping division. He provided leadership, expertise, and technical support as our landscape designer.

His creativity and knowledge of plants were superb. A legacy of his creative efforts can be found in hundreds of landscape designs that Heritage installed throughout York, Adams, and Cumberland counties. Tom's talent, skill, and easy-going personality will be missed.

Our Heritage family joins his personal family in honoring the memory of a fun-loving, servant-hearted, creative young man whose life ended way too early.

Sincerely,

Tom Bechtel

Tom Bechtel, CEO

To learn more, visit our website at HeritageLawnAndLandscape.com.



ANOTHER WICKED WINTER?

PREPARE & PROTECT YOUR LANDSCAPE

Winter is fast approaching—along with bitterly cold winds, snow, and ice. While we can't predict what this winter will bring, homeowners can take measures to help protect their landscaping investments.

▶ **When choosing plants for your landscape, select those that can tolerate Pennsylvania winters.** For borderline hardy plants, place them where harsh winds won't directly hit them.

▶ **Water your plants throughout the fall.** New plantings, which lack strong root systems, are especially vulnerable to becoming too dry. When the ground freezes, plants may lose the ability to pull moisture from it. It will help limit winter freeze damage if plants are thoroughly hydrated to begin with.

▶ **Construct a "wind break" for sensitive plants.** Wrap burlap around broadleaf evergreens to insulate them and reduce exposure to wind.

▶ **Add mulch around the base of plants that are susceptible to root freeze damage.** This will help insulate the root system and reduce the damaging heave/thaw to sensitive roots.

▶ **Consider an anti-desiccant spray and deer repellent for young plants.** Anti-desiccants help seal in moisture that could be lost through evaporation, and deer repellents help keep your plants from becoming an eight-pointer's lunch.

▶ **Keep an eye on plants in times of snow and ice.** Brush off accumulated snow and ice from sensitive plants (such as Japanese maples) to minimize damage. Also, when applying salt compounds to melt ice on sidewalks and driveways, take care to avoid contact with your landscape beds.

▶ **Fertilize and prune trees in autumn.** Trees better utilize fertilizers in fall when nutrient uptake is slower. Canopy growth also slows in fall, so pruning is easier and causes less trauma to plants.

Replacing plants after damage from a harsh winter can be costly, so your time will be well spent by following the tips above. They'll help ensure a healthy landscape for you to enjoy when spring arrives.



EAB UPDATE



Since our last report, our arborists have found more ash trees severely affected by the Emerald Ash Borer throughout the northern part of York County. While it's difficult to tell exactly how many trees have fallen prey to this destructive pest, we anticipate thousands are infected.

With fall here, EAB beetles have already laid their eggs within the bark of trees, and the larvae are inside boring tunnels, disrupting the flow of vital nutrients the trees need to survive. Unfortunately, it's difficult to know whether trees have been attacked until spring, when their canopies don't develop as they should.

The EAB seems to be on a southeastern bound path of destruction. In fact, a sighting has been confirmed in Columbia in Lancaster County. Because EAB beetles

can typically fly a half-mile to three miles away from where they emerge, we advise property owners within ten to fifteen miles from affected areas to consider treating their trees.

At Heritage, we offer three types of EAB treatments:

- Soil injection—Protects for a year and can still be applied this fall.
- Trunk spray—Protects for a year and can be applied next spring.
- Trunk injection—Protects for two years and is best applied in spring or fall.

Treating your ash trees as early as possible is the best defense. EAB may be causing damage without you realizing it, and after more than 50 percent of a tree's canopy is killed, it's probably too late.

TREE OF THE QUARTER

BLACKGUM

The blackgum is a medium-sized shade tree that adds visual appeal to a landscape. In the fall, the blackgum's oblong leaves turn a brilliant red hue, and its flowers transform into a bluish fruit that birds love to feed upon.

A member of the *nyssa sylvatica* species, the blackgum is native to the Northeast. It grows to between 65- and 75-feet tall and spreads to 25- to 35-feet wide. In the South, it's also known by the name "tupelo." Its flowers attract honeybees and other pollinators. Thank the blackgum for tupelo honey!

Horticulturists recommend the blackgum for its outstanding ornamental value, its adaptability to weather extremes, and its lack of pest problems.



We do all the work. You get all the glory.

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over \$2,000

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Let our team of landscape professionals transform your outdoor space into one that's the talk of the town. We'll create a design to fulfill your vision, install plants and hardscape features, and maintain your landscape so it always looks extraordi-

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