



Late September to early November is the perfect time to start preparing your lawn and garden for the winter. A little preparation now will make your lawn healthier and greener come springtime! Here are some tips to help you get your lawn ready for the cold months ahead.

1. Give your lawn one last mowing. Cut it to its regular height and continue to water like normal.

2. Sometime between now and the early part of November, during autumn's first cool nights but while the grass is still green, apply a winterizer fertilizer. Fall is the most important time to fertilize our lawns here in Colorado. Winterizer fertilizers contain high levels of nitrogen like



regular lawn food, but many also contain a high level of potassium. In the chemical analysis of the fertilizer, this is the middle number (see picture). Potassium works mainly to strengthen the root system of plants. This is important since your lawn will need to rely on its strong root base as it lies dormant during the winter. Fertilize according to the instructions on the bag. Make sure the soil is moist before fertilizing. If not, water first then fertilize the next day.

3. Throughout the season, rake up the leaves as they fall on the lawn. Dead leaves can block water and nutrients that your lawn needs. They can harbor pests and diseases, too.

4. Send your lawn into the winter with sufficient water. Check your lawn periodically from November through March. Though it is dormant, your grass will still need some water during the winter, especially during extended dry spells that are common here in Denver. If we get more than four weeks without significant snow cover, it's time to water. Water during the day when the temperature is above 40 degrees and the ground is unfrozen.



We have two outstanding winterizer fertilizers here at O'Toole's. The first is the classic **Colorado's Choice Winterizer**. This is the same **Colorado's Choice** that Denver gardeners have been using for over 25 years! It's a synthetic fertilizer with a high level of potassium (15-20-10) to help promote deep root growth for the winter. **Colorado's Choice Winterizer** comes in a 20 lbs. bag that covers 5,000 square feet.

\$12.99



We also have a newer winterizer that's part of Colorado's Choice popular WaterSaver line. Like all the WaterSaver products, WaterSaver Winterizer is an organic, slow-release fertilizer made out of dried chicken manure. Though its potassium number is lower than other synthetic winterizers, it contains mycorrhizae, soil borne micro-organisms that act as natural root stimulators. It's a perfect winterizer to use with an organic lawn care program. WaterSaver Winterizer comes in a 25

lbs. bag that covers 2,500 square feet.

\$12.99 or 3 bags for \$30

Info from CSU Extension Office and NK Lawn and Garden Caring for Lawns