

Smart Tips to Make Fall Lawn Care Easier

(StatePoint) A beautiful lawn is important for a lovely home, but when those autumn leaves begin to fall, some extra effort is required to keep things picture perfect. This once meant firing up noisy machinery and piling up bag after bag of yard waste. Now that we live in more environmentally-conscious times, this might not seem like such a responsible idea.

Doing things by hand doesn't have to lead to a sore back. Learning some helpful hints can make your lawn really stand out this year and help you get the job done in a breeze.

Spring is when the lawn and garden really come into full bloom, but fall is when plants are storing energy and nutrients to have ready when the season turns. Like an athlete training in the offseason, get a step up on the competition by building a good foundation. Now's the time to fertilize and aerate since roots keep growing and storing energy even when above-ground growth slows during the colder months. Don't forget to keep watering too!

Weeding can be made less painful if you adhere to the old gardener's trick of completing this task after it rains. When the earth is dry, it's harder to pull out the whole weed without breaking off the top. After rainfall, the ground is soft, making it easier to pluck out entire weeds. They can easily be added to leaves and other debris that needs to be hauled away.

Leaves can smother your lawn if enough of them build up, preventing sunlight from reaching the grass and increasing the chances of lawn disease. Collecting the leaves in bags allows your lawn to breathe and receive proper sunlight.

The average cost to remove leaves is \$374. There are easy DIY methods that can save you money. To make your life easier and get the job done faster, consider using tools such as the EZ Leaf Hauler, which acts like a giant dustpan for leaves, and is a cost-effective, green alternative.

Reduce waste by packing more leaves into every bag



with tools like the EZ Leaf Stomper or using leaves and yard debris for mulch or compost.

Good posture can also prevent backaches when raking leaves. Keep your head up and back straight. Relieve back pressure by raking in the "scissors" stance: placing one foot forward and the other back and reversing position when comfortable. Another option is to haul tarps by using pull handles like EZ Tarp Tugger.

Opt for ergonomically designed rakes, shears and pruners that require less hand strength and provide a comfortable non-slip grip to help prevent muscle soreness. More information on innovative tools for raking, hauling and bagging yard waste can be found at www.ezlawnandgarden.com

Get a head start on home improvement this fall with smart lawn and garden care. Grab the kids and get the clippers, rake 'em in and bag 'em up.