

PLANTS & PESTS

with Nicole



August

**NEBRASKA EXTENSION
IN GAGE COUNTY**
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EXTENSION



Fall Lawncare

Seed lawns anytime now until the middle of September. It is best to overseed by Labor Day for best results. If seeded too late in September or into October, the seed will not be established enough to survive frost conditions. If facing troubles with nimblewill, windmill grass or other perennial grassy weeds, spray with glyphosate (Roundup) a week ahead of seeding then clear off the soil before overseeding. Fall fertilization should be done around Labor Day if you plan for a fall fertilization. This should be sufficient for most lawns, but if the lawn doesn't still have a good green color in mid-October, a second fall application could be made. One fertilization in the fall is sufficient for most established lawns. If struggling with broadleaf weeds in the lawn such as dandelion, creeping Charlie, or clover fall is the best time to treat for those. Use a 2,4-D product or a product containing triclopyr in mid-September and again in mid-October for best results. The later application will also help with Henbit, a winter annual weed that will germinate in the fall to flower and seed in the spring.

Oak Trees

Many people are concerned with brown leaves in their oak trees and on the ground surrounding the trees. These leaves look fine other than the fact that they are brown rather than green. When the leaves fall to the ground, it is often a bunch of leaves still attached to a twig that also falls to the ground. This is due to oak twig girdler, a small insect that lives in the ends of twigs. The female girdles the ends of small twigs for the development of her eggs. These branches are still attached, but barely, and will fall from the tree when wind knocks it out. This damage is rarely severe and warrants no control methods. Pickup and destroy branches at the end of the season to help reduce this problem next year. Squirrels can also do similar damage to many deciduous trees, but the twig will be roughly cut from a squirrel and smoothly cut from the twig girdler.



GARDENING CALENDAR

- August 24-September 15: Overseed Lawns
- September 1-15: Fertilize lawns
- September 15 & October 15: Spray lawns for broadleaf weeds
- Sept.-Oct.: Use barrier insecticides to prevent home invading insects
- October 1-31: Clean gardens to reduce disease/insect pressure next year
- October: Clean up perennial gardens, add extra mulch; Don't prune roses or butterfly bushes, roses can be pruned to get inside rose cones
- October: Plant spring blooming bulbs and garlic
- Late September-November: Plant a tree