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» **Flummer is a Busy Time for Greenscapers!**

Many of us consider summer to be over when the school year begins, but technically fall doesn't start this year until the fall equinox on September 22nd. My friend's daughter affectionately calls this transitional time of year "flummer" because there's a bit of fall in the air and yet summery days still sometimes linger.

Whatever you want to call it -- late summer, early fall, or flummer -- this is a

very busy time of year for Greenscapers! Spring may get all the publicity in the landscaping world, but NOW is when we really need to invest a bit of effort to make sure our yard will be at its best.


This issue of Greenscapes E-news is dedicated to the things you should do now so you and your yard can reap the benefits next season. Don't worry, it's nothing too tough... but if you'd like a little help getting started, consider getting some guidance from one of our Greenscapes Advisors (see article below).

And don't forget, **fall is for planting** – be on the lookout for a special edition of Greenscapes E-news in the very near future, which will be devoted to ideas for adding more beautiful plants to your yard!

Happy flummer to all,

Wendy Garpow, Editor
Massachusetts Bays Estuary Association

Fall Lawn Care Calendar

 Here's your checklist to keep your Greenscape looking great for the rest of the season -- and you'll even be getting a head start on next year! Follow the links to learn more about each recommendation. To see what's in store in the coming months, see the [complete Greenscapes Lawn Care Calendar](#).

- [Overseed](#) with [drought-tolerant grass seed](#) to crowd out next year's weeds.
 - Continue to conduct the [Thumb Test](#) and sharpen your mower blade at least every 10 hours of mowing
 - Continue to leave clippings on the lawn for [free fertilizer](#)
 - Fertilize in the fall if at all ([learn more](#))
 - Apply [corn gluten](#) before the ground freezes to control next year's crabgrass (wait six weeks after overseeding)
 - Later this fall, use fallen leaves as mulch and/or add them to your [compost bin/pile](#)
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Tip of the Month: Overseed to Fight Next Year's Weeds!

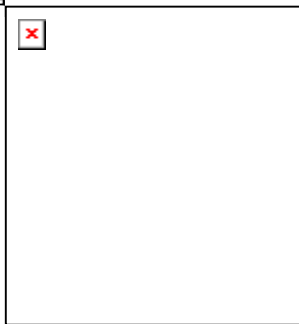
If your lawn was plagued with weeds this year, NOW is the time to take action to have a great lawn next year! Most weeds don't germinate in the fall, but grass seed flourishes. Overseeding your lawn NOW will give your lawn a head start on next season, so it will be thick enough to crowd out the weeds that are waiting to germinate next spring. Just follow these five steps:

1. **Buy.** Regardless of what type of lawn you inherited when you moved in, now is your chance to choose the best seed for a great looking lawn. Choose a drought-tolerant variety that has a high percentage of **turf-type tall fescues**. Several manufacturers now carry fescue grass

mixes – compare labels and buy the blend with the highest percentage purity and germination ratings. Great grass seeds are produced by the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, as they select the finest seeds that are best suited to Massachusetts' climate. MNLA seeds are carried by several [Greenscapes partner nurseries](#), including A.J.Tomasi Nurseries (Pembroke), Kennedy's Country Gardens (Scituate), and Nunan's Florist & Greenhouses (Georgetown).

2. **Remove.** Get rid of the unwanted weeds so that the new grass can grow there instead. Pull them out by hand using a weed fork, making sure to remove the whole plant and the long taproot. If needed, you can use an organic (vinegar-based) herbicide on large patches of weeds. Just be sure to follow the label directions carefully and wait until it loses its effectiveness before spreading seed.
3. **Rake.** Give your lawn a good raking to get rid of the dead grass and weeds. This will help the new seeds to grow and allow the air, sunlight and rainwater to give your existing lawn new life. If this seems hard, just remember it's good exercise and you can even recycle the old grass in your [compost bin or pile](#).
4. **Spread.** Evenly distribute the grass seeds using a mechanical spreader. Set it at a light setting and go over your lawn several times for the best coverage. Some people find this part fun and very satisfying.
5. **Water.** Give the new seeds a good drink of water to get them started and then keep them moist for a couple of weeks or they will die. Usually in the fall, Mother Nature will take care of this, but if not, give the overseeded areas of your lawn a drink every few days.

Water Restrictions -- Is There One In Your Town??

 The past month may have been rather soggy and the warm days are fading fast, but many communities are still under water restrictions for the continued protection of public health and the environment. [Find out your town's watering restrictions by checking our website!](#)

Why do towns implement watering restrictions? Because water is our most precious natural resource. Our communities require adequate supplies at all times for human consumption and fire protection. In the summer months, this supply can be severely threatened because too much water is being used to irrigate lawns. Do your part to protect your community's water supply so there is enough water for drinking and fire protection. People are more important than lawns -- if your town has implemented a watering ban, be sure to comply with all regulations.

Greenscapes Consultations: Get Some Guidance from a Greenscapes Advisor!

Fall is a busy time for Greenscapers, who are investing a bit of effort now so they can reap the benefits next season. Do you like the idea of Greenscaping but not quite sure where to start in your own backyard? Or maybe you are a seasoned Greenscaper and would like some specific recommendations and expertise to help guide your efforts. Treat yourself and your yard to a Greenscapes Consultation!

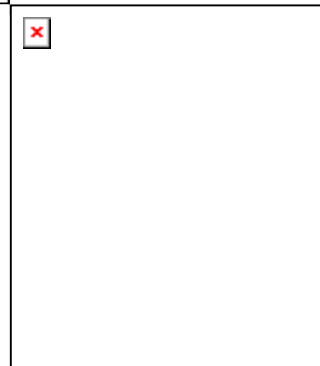
Register now for a minimum 60-minute private consultation at your home or business to learn how you can save time, money and water by implementing Greenscapes practices. A Greenscapes Advisor will conduct a site inspection, soil sample and professional analysis, and review of your existing maintenance practices. After the site visit, you will receive a written report with a summary of your soil results, and customized recommendations for a beautiful, healthy yard. The consultations (including soil test and report) are offered for the discounted rate of \$175. Follow these links to find an Advisor in your area: [Connecticut River Watershed](#), [North Shore](#), [South Shore](#).

Got Grubs?

In a recent report, researchers at UMass Cooperative Extension stated that areas that received steady rainfall throughout the summer may experience higher grub populations than usual, especially of Japanese beetles and oriental beetles. The report also says that if you have grubs, late summer is the time to apply controls such as beneficial nematodes (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*). For the full UMass report, [click here](#) (you may need to “Search Archives” for the report dated August 28, 2008, “Insects” category)

Beneficial nematodes are microscopic parasites that kill grubs but are safe to people and the environment. You’ve probably heard that some chemicals (such as Trichlorfon) can do the job quick - but remember that these pesticides are banned from school grounds in Massachusetts because of the potential harm they can cause to children. Why take a chance with your family’s health if you don’t have to? Ask a [Greenscapes partner nursery](#) for more information about nematodes and other organic controls for grubs and other pests. Note: Timing and temperature is very important with nematodes, so be sure to follow application directions very carefully.

Native Plant Demonstration Gardens



Thanks to the generous donations of two Greenscapes Underwriters and the hard work of many partnering organizations and individuals, three native plant demonstration gardens will soon be planted in the South Shore, North Shore, and Western Massachusetts! These gardens will showcase the spectacular beauty of native plants, and demonstrate their [many benefits](#). Native plants are adapted to our soil and climate, provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, and require little water and chemicals to maintain once established.

[Prides Corner Farms](#) (the folks that bring you [American Beauty native plants](#)) has generously donated hundreds of native plants for these gardens, and [Risa Edelstein](#) (a landscape designer affiliated with [Greenscapes Inc.](#)) is volunteering her expertise in design, construction, and maintenance. These demonstration

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