



Topic: Lawncare and Old Man Winter

Column: At the Root of It All (for Friday, Nov. 18)

By: Clint Allison

Hear ye, hear ye! Be forewarned that now is the last chance to get your lawns prepared for the upcoming winter season.

Many homeowners tend to overlook the importance of winterizing their lawns. They often do not realize that by not prepping and winterizing their lawns they are allowing weeds to germinate and get a head start on the next season.

Proper winterization also is critical for residential and commercial irrigation systems. The winterization process includes fully flushing and removing lingering water from the irrigation system prior to the season's first freeze. Winterizing your irrigation system helps to avoid bursting pipes and potentially costly repair jobs.

Before Old Man Winter comes along, take note of these tips to ready your lawn for winter:

- Overseed during the fall season, so new seedlings have a chance to grow and mature before the heat of summer.
- Start treatments of pre-emergent herbicides before crabgrass and other broad leaf weeds start to grow.
- For warm season turfs (Bermuda, Zoysia, etc.), fall is a good time to kill unwanted intruder grasses and weeds.
- Mulch trees and shrubs in the fall to help prevent cold weather damage.
- Winter is a good time to prune most trees and shrubs.
- And, winterize your sprinkler system!

I can't stress this enough – irrigation systems should be shut down before freezing water has a chance to cause harm. Winterizing a system is normally less than \$100, which is significantly cheaper than replacing damaged equipment from bursting pipes that have not been winterized. The Rainscapes team has already completed more than 1,400 winterizations this fall, so don't let your lawn be left out in the cold.

Take time to enjoy the holidays this year, but don't forget about your lawn!

Clint Allison provides more tips and information at www.rainscapes.com or by calling call 981-4270.

Rainscapes is the only national Irrigation Association Certified Irrigation Contractor in Knoxville, offering diverse residential and commercial irrigation products and services, including system installations, seasonal irrigation maintenance and landscape lighting and design. Rainscapes was founded by Clint Allison in 1996. Visit www.rainscapes.com for more information.