Fall Lawn Care Checklist

For residential lawns transitioning into cooler weather. Cool-season renovation opportunities differ from warm-season preparation for dormancy; adapt every treatment to your species and region.

Date: _____ Completed by: _____ Grass type / location: _____

Before you start

- Record grass type, local frost outlook and any irrigation winterization requirements. Gather cleanup tools and equipment manuals.
- Do not apply a universal final-cut height, fertilizer dose or watering schedule. Follow local extension advice and restrictions; isolate equipment power before service.

Assess and clear

- [ ] **Identify grass type and local fall care window (Essential)**
  Cool-season lawns may be actively growing while warm-season lawns approach dormancy.
- [ ] **Remove heavy leaf cover and debris (Essential)**
  Mulch light leaves only where they do not smother the grass.
- [ ] **Inspect drainage, weeds and thin patches (Essential)**
  Identify causes and use local guidance before treatment.

Support the lawn

- [ ] **Continue mowing while grass is growing (If Applicable)**
  While your grass is still growing and conditions allow mowing.
  Use the recommended height for your species; avoid scalping.
- [ ] **Adjust irrigation for rainfall and slower growth (If Applicable)**
  If supplemental watering is used.
  Avoid unnecessary watering and follow local restrictions.
- [ ] **Fertilize only if recommended for your grass and region (If Applicable)**
  Only if local, grass-specific guidance supports fall feeding.
  Follow soil-test guidance, product labels and local cutoff dates.
- [ ] **Aerate or overseed if appropriate for the grass and season (If Applicable)**
  If renovation is needed and sufficient establishment time remains for your grass.
  Cool-season turf may benefit from early-fall renovation with time to establish. Warm-season turf approaching dormancy usually needs renovation deferred to its next active-growth window; confirm local advice.

Prepare for cold weather

- [ ] **Protect irrigation before freezing conditions (Professional Service)**
  If a fixed irrigation system needs freeze protection or specialized drainage.
  Follow the installed system’s freeze-protection plan. Use qualified help for blow-out or backflow work; do not disconnect controller wiring or use a generic air-pressure setting.
- [ ] **Clean and store lawn equipment (If Applicable)**
  If equipment will be stored for the off-season.
  Isolate power before servicing and follow battery or fuel storage instructions.
- [ ] **Record problem areas for the next growing season (Optional)**
  Keep a note of weeds, drainage issues and repairs.

Notes / additional tasks

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