



OCTOBER

2007

## FALL LAWN CARE

Bring nutrients and vitality back to lawns this fall with **Natural Guard Soil Activator**. This product contains humates, the active ingredients in a compost pile. Activator makes beneficial organic material for your soil out of grass clippings, thatch and debris. Core aerating first would be great, but it also works well when applied to the surface and watered in. Activator doesn't take the place of fertilizer, but it does increase the ability of grass to use fertilizer—and it is time now for your second **Winterizer** application. This application is especially important for fall-planted grass.

There is still time to plant grass seed through October. Seed planted now will be slower coming up and, depending on weather, may not totally mature this fall, but fall-planted seed will always be stronger going into summer. Grass planted in October will need **Winterizer** in November.

October to mid November is also a very effective time to rid your lawn of broadleaf weeds and reduce next spring's crop. If you seeded this fall, be sure the new grass has been mowed three times before applying any weed control. Use **ferti•lome Weed Out Plus Lawn Fertilizer** for a weed-and-feed or liquid **ferti•lome Weed Free Zone** for quicker results now and for better control in cooler weather.

## FALL COLOR

Plant mums, pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale now to give your garden a burst of color this fall. Use **ferti•lome Premium Bedding Plant Food** in the soil when planting and then follow up with several waterings of **Daniels Plant Food**. This organic based liquid fertilizer dissolves easily, even in cold water, and is instantly available to be used by the plants. Use Daniels next spring to get perennials and pansies off to a spectacular start. Pansies will bloom all fall, into winter and again with your bulbs next spring. Mums are perennials and come back year after year to flower in the fall. Mulch pansies, mums and asters to insure the best winter hardiness.

## POINSETTIAS & CHRISTMAS CACTUS

These traditional holiday plants need a little special attention if you want color again this Christmas.

Poinsettias need long nights to trigger the color change in the bracts. Early October is generally the time to start these artificial "nights." The 12-14 hour dark period must be uninterrupted by any light source. Even

a dim light bulb can throw off the treatment. During the remaining "day" period, poinsettias need a sunny location. The process takes about six weeks, then you can leave the plants in bright light to finish the color change.

Christmas cactus may also be given longer "nights" to trigger bud development; or they can be kept cool. This can be achieved by leaving plants outdoors as night time temperatures stay in the 50s. Bring them inside to a bright location once buds set on.

## TULIPS & OTHER BULBS

October is "prime time" for bulb planting. Daffodils, crocus and hyacinths can be planted anytime now; plant tulips in late October to November. When planning your spring garden, remember that bulbs make a more effective display when planted in groups rather than singly. Plant with the pointed end of the bulb up. Good drainage is crucial so work up the area and incorporate **Johnson's Bulb Planting Package**. The Package includes **Cotton Boll Compost** to improve the drainage, **Bone Meal** for a slow release phosphorus to aid in root development and **Bulb Food** for a total fertilizer.

### Bulb Planting Chart

Bulb	Depth	Spacing
Crocus & sm. bulbs	3-4"	2-3"
Daffodils	6-8"	6"
Hyacinth	6"	4-6"
Tulips	5-6"	4-6"
Larger Bulbs	8"	8-12"

Water bulbs in well with **ferti•lome Root Stimulator** and continue watering through fall and winter if weather is dry and warm.

## TREES & SHRUBS

Every Kansas summer presents its own challenges that stress our trees and shrubs. This year we had so much moisture the soil became saturated, depriving plant roots of oxygen and causing damage to those roots. As a result, many plants lost leaves during the later part of the summer. The best thing to do now to help them next spring is to fertilize this fall with **ferti•lome Tree & Shrub Food**. **Tree & Shrub Food** is a granular fertilizer you just sprinkle or spread underneath plants, then water in. This allows fertilizer to get to all the little feeder roots and to be utilized efficiently by the plant. **Tree & Shrub Food** is good for deciduous and evergreen plants and may be applied until the ground freezes.