

## FALL AND WINTER LAWN CARE

While many of us in Santa Clarita know that our lawns need attention in the summer to keep them green, our lawns also need care in the fall and winter.

Here are a few ideas for lawn care in the fall and winter:

1. **Check soil moisture** In colder weather, even cool season turf can turn brown. This is not a result of lack of water or lack of nutrients. It is a function of temperature. Grass naturally requires less water in the fall and winter months due to shorter days and cooler temperatures. Check the moisture before you water.
2. **Aerate** If your soil is hard and compacted, you may need to aerate. Aeration will allow your lawn to drain better, water to percolate deeper into the root zone, and encourage growth in the spring.
3. **Dethatch** Thatch build up works just like a thatch roof. It prevents water and nutrients from reaching the root zone. Dethatching allows water and nutrients to reach the root zone.
4. **Lower your mowing height** Maintaining proper turf height is important. In the cool months, mowing to 1.5 to 2.5 inches is ideal.

Both an aerator and a dethatcher can be rented at a hardware store, such as Home Depot or Lowe's, for those who want to aerate their own lawns. Before aerating or dethatching, mark your sprinkler locations in the ground so that you don't damage them. Landscape maintenance contractors also offer these services.



Lawn Aerator



Lawn Dethatcher



Lawn Mower