

## Professional Landscapers Fall Checklist

- Check lawnmowers, trimmers and leaf blowers for leaking fluids. Repair any leaks found.
- Clean tools and equipment on the lawn or grassy areas.
- Cover lawn equipment or move it indoors.
- Regularly rake and compost leaves.
- Always blow or rake leaves into piles on lawns or other grassy surfaces, never onto pavement. City of Fort Collins ordinance prohibits leaf blowing into streets.
- Bag leaves or cover them with a tarp before taking them to a drop-off site.
- Prune trees and compost or mulch trimmings.
- Mow the lawn one last time before winter. Keep grass to three inches or less.
- Aerate so plants will absorb water and nutrients over winter months.
- Fertilize lawns in early fall - if you fertilize twice per year.
- Use organic or slow-release fertilizers.
- Do not apply fertilizer to lawns on rainy or windy days.
- Store leftover fertilizer in containers with lids or in covered areas.
- Take unwanted fertilizer and other lawn chemicals to hazardous waste collection sites.
- Dry out sprinkler systems. Freezing underground sprinkler pipes can burst and cause leaking water to wash fertilizer, leaves and grass clippings into storm drains.
- Use leaf and debris vacuums for small, stray leaves or aeration cores.