

October 1, 2011

Insects:

- Now that it is getting colder, crickets, spiders, sow bugs, and stink bugs will be trying to get into your home. Keep them out by applying [Summit Mosquito and Gnat Barrier Spray](#) or [Bonide Eight](#) around the house. Also, fleas in the lawn can be controlled with these same products.

Perennials:

- Weeded and cleaned perennial beds will stay free of winter and spring weeds for 4-6 months if you apply [Greenlight Grass and Weed Preventer Amaze](#) before you mulch this fall.
- Now is the time to cut back perennial hibiscus plants.

Grass:

- Weeds that emerge with the grass seed you are putting down, were not from the grass seeds, but the weed seeds that were left behind in your soil from the previous season. These weed seeds will germinate at the same time as the grass seed. To kill these weeds, you will need to apply [Speed Zone](#) this fall or next spring. *Speed Zone* and other lawn weed killers do not work efficiently in temperatures below 55-60 degrees. DO NOT APPLY the *Speed Zone* until AFTER the new baby grass has begun growing and has been cut twice. Otherwise, the baby grass will be damaged if the application is applied too early.
- Many people have reported seeing white grubs while renovating their lawns. If you find more than 6-7 grubs per square feet, use [Bayer Dylox](#) to get rid of the grubs. If there are less than 6-7 grubs per square feet, then use *Turf Trust* to out grow the grub's damage.
- If you have not already done so, feed your lawn with [Turf Trust](#). Grass fed with *Turf Trust* will multiply up to 200-300% which will crowd out winter weeds. *Turf Trust* is the most complete lawn fertilizer formula available to homeowners.
- Do not use starter fertilizer when sowing or growing grass seed. Young grass, only needs a small amount of phosphate to start life.
- Lawns that are not fed with a fertilizer, will become weed patches soon.

Amaryllis:

- Now is the time to shop for Dutch amaryllis. The best blooming amaryllis to buy are Orange Sovereign, Prince Carnival, Apple Blossom, Christmas Gift, and Susan. When planting a Dutch amaryllis, use a pot approximately 2" larger than the bulb. Use *Monrovia potting soil*, and water with luke warm water one time after potting. Keep the potted amaryllis in a warm place. Light is not important right after potting, but heat is.
- After the amaryllis' flower stem is 5" tall, resume watering the amaryllis. Every time you water the amaryllis, feed with [Seamate](#). Use an [electronic moisture meter](#) to determine when to water the amaryllis. If you do not use a moisture meter, you will probably over water the plant because the watering needs to be done based on the moisture near the roots. The moisture at the top of the soil is a poor indicator of the root moisture.
- When the flower stem is 5" tall, it needs to be moved to a cooler, well lit place to display and enjoy your amaryllis' bloom.