



THE BUGGETTE



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Bare in Mind by Josh Bare

The births of our children were more joyous than humorous, but my wife Amanda and I can look back and chuckle about those experiences now — hopefully they will be entertaining for you readers as well, and maybe a little familiar.

We welcomed our fourth child on November 26th of last year. You'd think by now we'd have the whole birthing process down pat, but all of our kids have been different. The firstborn, Lincoln, didn't want to face the world and was two weeks late. We sat in the hospital all day long on July 31st, 2008, after labor was induced and he was still happy in the oven. One C-section later, he was out. Number two, Sabrina, was a "normal" birth in 2010 on November 4th. Well, "normal" other than a late-night dash from

Norcross down to Northside Hospital in the rain. We got there just in time for an epidural to slow things down. Levi, our third, wasn't in quite that much of a hurry, but he popped out with less prodding than his older brother on August 12th, 2013.

This last baby girl (and by "last," my wife really means no more) was due in November. We were hoping to avoid setting her up with a Thanksgiving holiday

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Aeration & Overseeding

Is your Fescue grass thinning after a hot summer? We recommend aeration and overseeding. **Aeration** removes plugs of soil to allow vital water, nutrients and air to reach the roots. It also increases resistance to heat and drought and makes lawns more resilient.

Overseeding is the application of seeds over your existing grass to fill in the bare spots and help your grass grow thicker and lusher all over. We recommend aerating the lawn before overseeding as this gives the seeds a safe place to germinate and maximizes your lawn's growth potential.

Call us at **770.447.6037** to get an estimate and set up an appointment today.

Maximize the Customer Assistance Portal Experience

We know our customers are busy and we want to make partnering to care for your lawn as easy as possible. Did you know that you can do more than pay your bill on our customer assistance website? Go to **arbor-nomics.com** and click **PAY YOUR BILL** in the top right corner to access our Customer Assistance portal. Once you create an account, you'll have the ability to:

 Set up auto-pay for your account or prepay for the year

 See your history of treatments and payments

 Request an estimate or add a service

 Refer a friend

 Contact us with any questions or concerns



Log in to set up your account today.
Please give us a call if you need help setting up an account.



Gardening in the Fall

FALL IS FOR PLANTING.



Enjoy fall shrubs with blooms and berries such as Encore Azaleas, Camellias, Witch Hazel, Cotoneaster, Dogwoods, Beautyberry, Holly, Honeysuckle and Pyracantha. Divide or transplant spring-blooming perennials.

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MORE COLOR PLEASE.



Bring back the color in your garden by replanting a fall crop of annual flowers – Geraniums, Petunias or Zinnias in the full sun. Once temperatures really cool down, replace your warm season annuals with Pansies and Violas.

GARDEN FOR FOOD.



Cool-season vegetable seeds and seedlings can be planted. Try cabbage, lettuce, beets, turnips, spinach, radishes, collards and broccoli; be sure to water thoroughly after planting.

Source: Pike Nursery (www.pikenursery.com/pages/september-lawn-garden-tips)

Fall Fertilization

Trees and shrubs may appear dormant in the winter, but their root structure continues to grow and they need care and protection from the cold to stay healthy and produce foliage for spring. Even if you're not on our tree and shrub program, we offer fall fertilization service separate from your regular lawn care program. We apply a single treatment of our slow-release fertilizer that reacts to soil temperatures and fertilizes your trees and shrubs when they need it.

With this one application:

- Your trees and shrubs will develop a stronger root system
- They'll be more resistant to insects and disease
- You'll see lush growth and greener leaves in the spring

You can also help care for your trees and shrubs during winter by:

- Continuing to water throughout the fall until the ground freezes
- Providing a warm blanket of mulch to protect roots



Seven Steps to a Lush Lawn

It's a well-known fact that the best way to ensure a thick, green, and healthy lawn in the spring is to give it some well-timed care in the fall—in other words, right now. Follow these seven steps for a lush lawn.

- 1 REMOVE THE LEAVES.** They block the light and trap moisture, potentially fatal knockout punches for the unlucky turf underneath.
- 2 KEEP CUTTING, BUT TO THE CORRECT HEIGHT.** Don't put that mower away yet. Grass continues to grow up to the first hard frost, and so will need regular cuts to keep it at an ideal 2½- to 3-inch height.
- 3 CONTINUE WATERING.** If your lawn isn't getting at least an inch of water a week—a simple rain gauge is a useful way to keep track—then keep the sprinklers or irrigation system running until the end of October.
- 4 LOOSEN THE SOIL.** Regular aeration—once every couple of years—prevents soil from becoming compacted and covered with thatch, a thick layer of roots, stems, and debris that blocks water, oxygen, and nutrients from reaching the soil.
- 5 ADD FERTILIZER.** Just as grass roots need water to last the winter, they also benefit from a shot of the plant sugars that protect roots from freezing and give the entire plant the energy to bounce back in the spring.
- 6 SPREAD SEED.** Fall is the best time to overseed because the ground is still warm, moisture is more plentiful, nights are cool, and the sun is not as hot during the day.
- 7 STAY ON SCHEDULE.** Each of the steps above should be done at the right time for best results.

Source: This Old House (www.thisoldhouse.com/ideas/7-fall-lawn-care-tips-to-do-right-now)

Application #5

What we did to your lawn today:

1. For warm-season grasses, we applied a pre-emergent to prevent grassy weeds from germinating in the wintertime and a broadleaf weed control to get rid of broadleaf weeds. You should see those weeds die within two weeks of the treatment. If you don't, email or call the office for a free retreat.
2. **Fescue** lawns received a granular starter fertilizer. This is high in phosphorus, which enhances the germination of seeds applied in overseeding. **Fescue** should be overseeded in September or October. Please call us for a quote on aeration and overseeding.
3. **Gold** customers received a **FREE** Outdoor Pest Control application.
4. **Platinum** customers receive a treatment/visit every month so this is application #9 and #10 for you. You received a fungicide to prevent fungi, an application of Outdoor Pest Control and a nutsedge/grassy weed application as needed.

What we did to your trees and shrubs today:

(ONLY For Gold & Platinum Customers)

1. We applied an insecticide to help prevent lace bugs, aphids, and caterpillars from settling into your trees and shrubs and a miticide to battle spider mites.
2. A fungicide was applied to control diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.

What you need to do until our next visit:

1. During fall, all lawns should have one inch of water per week from rain or irrigation. If it doesn't rain, check with your local water authority regarding watering regulations. The best watering time is early morning.
2. When mowing, do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blades at each cutting. For optimal appearance, **Fescue** lawns should be mowed every 5–6 days, **Bermuda** every 2–5 days (depending upon the type of **Bermuda** grass) and **Zoysia** every 5–8 days. You don't need to collect clippings, as they recycle back into the soil, providing extra nutrients. It is safe to mow immediately after we've applied our products.
3. Keep an eye out for brown patch fungus.
4. Routine pruning will help your shrubs grow better.

If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call our Customer Service Department Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM at **770.447.6037**. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

Did You Know?? Fun Lawncare Facts

- The most popular lawn ornament: the pink flamingo (250,000 are sold every year).
- About 65% of all water used in American households goes to watering lawns. (In summer, that's about 238 gallons per person per day.)
- The average lawn absorbs water six times more effectively than a wheat field.
- The average lawn grows at a rate of about three inches per month.
- There are about 40 million acres of lawn in the United States—three times the acreage planted with irrigated corn.
- You can get a degree in lawn maintenance from Penn State University (but they call it "Turf Grass Science").



Source: Bathroom Reader (www.bathroomreader.com/2016/05/lawn-care-facts-trivia/)



Helpful Phone Numbers

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CUSTOMER RELATIONS

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We want to hear from you!

We are always looking for feedback on the level of customer service we are providing as well as how you think your yard is doing. We send out emails that offer you the ability to rate our services but you can also rate us by going to Google, typing Arbor-Nomics and clicking the write a review button.

If you'd prefer giving verbal feedback, you can call our office at **770.447.6037** or contact your technicians with any concerns. We appreciate your business and your support!

birthday, but she had other plans. At around 1 a.m. on November 26th, my wife woke me up and informed me that the contractions had started. My mother lives about five minutes away and was on alert, so I called her, and she said she'd be right over. As we got the car started, my wife seemed to be getting anxious really quickly. She had me call my mom again, and it seemed in Mom's sleepy state she was intent on packing up anything she might need before heading our way. My wife had me call a neighbor a couple of doors down who had graciously offered to watch our other three as well. She was there in about 60 seconds, it seemed, and once again we headed off to Northside in the middle of the night at a high rate of speed.



I pulled up to the emergency drop-off, and the parking lot guard was quick to inform me that even though it seemed like a quiet night so far I needed to move my vehicle right away. By this time Amanda was in a bit of pain, but she gamely slid out of the pickup and started waddling towards the door. A small spark of compassion hit the parking lot guard. She offered to let me park in one of the 15-minute spots by the door but sternly warned me to come right back and move the truck or she would rain down hellfire and brimstone on me.



I sprinted inside. Amanda was only a few steps in the door, mid-contraction. I checked on her and then went over to the front desk. Even though

we had selected Northside months earlier and our first three kids were born there, there were still lengthy forms to complete. I huddled with Amanda in the waiting area and got everything filled out lickety-split. The receptionist seemed miffed we were interrupting her evening but she started to enter our details into her computer. She informed us someone would be out shortly to take us back to a room.

About that time Amanda's water breaks and soaks down the waiting room chair. Ponder that next time you are selecting a seat in a maternity waiting room. A nurse ambles out with a wheelchair and loads up Amanda, and we head off to towards some double doors. I hear the nurse muttering about a C-section, and I started arguing with her that this was planned to be a conventional birth. For some "odd" reason, guys are like undocumented aliens

with no rights in a maternity ward, or at least that has been my experience. She gave me the evil eye and continued on. Amanda, in her weakened state, piped up between contractions and backed me up. Then she went back to loud moaning. We were going by empty delivery rooms right and left, and the noise Amanda was making was starting to escalate and attract attention.

Finally, we dove into an empty room and began transferring Amanda onto the bed. All kinds of folks started arriving. They quickly had my wife undressed, and another woman who looked like an authority was urging my wife to stop having the baby until the doctor could get there. Amanda pleaded for pain relief and announced that there would be no waiting - the baby was intent on arriving right then. It was too late for an epidural and after independent investigation, the woman confirmed the baby was indeed coming out. Everyone shifted into high gear.

About three pushes later, Evangeline Grace Bare was born, at 2:00 am. Only a little over an hour had passed since that first contraction. We're lucky we didn't have her on the side of the road! If we lived a little further out in the country, that might have been the case.

After things settled down a bit, I went back outside and moved the pickup to extended parking. Somehow I dodged the parking lot guard lady and avoided her ire at me overstaying the short-term parking limit.

They transferred us to a recovery room, and we spent the early morning hours winding down from the crazy delivery and admiring our new addition. Amanda was feeling better immediately. The next 48 hours were filled with all the new-baby hubbub of watchful attendants and visiting family. We checked out and navigated our last journey from the baby capital of the South to our nest in Norcross.

Eva is happy and healthy and has been fully accepted by two of her three siblings. The oldest, Lincoln, is still skeptical as to why we would want to add another minion for him to boss around. Hopefully with time he'll sweeten up to her and be a great big brother.

