

THE Arbor-Nomics® BUGGETTE



Halloween Safety – For Your Lawn!

Hats off to you if you're one of the many homeowners who really get into the spirit of Halloween, the one time a year we celebrate all things scary. As you enthusiastically plan how you'll decorate, keep in mind that some decorations can have frightful effects on your lawn. Here are suggestions that will protect your turf without dampening your spirit or fun for neighborhood trick-or-treaters.

Be careful with inflatable decorations.

The larger the inflatables and the longer they're displayed, the more damage they'll do to your grass. Consider placing them on a paved area like the driveway instead of the lawn. If that's not an option, limit the amount of time you display them, or at least move them around to different spots to avoid smothering your grass.

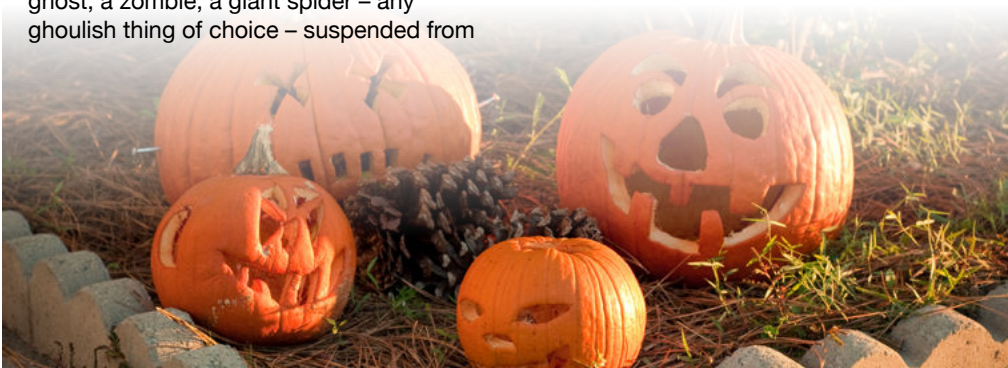
Tie it to a tree. A witch, a skeleton, a ghost, a zombie, a giant spider – any ghoulish thing of choice – suspended from

a tree branch and moving in the breeze delivers an enormous "boo!" factor.

Make use of mulched areas. Placing jack-o'-lanterns and other decorations on mulched areas in flower beds or around ornamental trees and shrubs is completely yard-friendly, so long as the decorations are not on any plants.

Put it on the porch. If you have a front porch, this is a perfect place for displaying all things scary. It spares your lawn and gives an extra thrill to kids waiting to get their treats.

One final caution for a safe, fun Halloween for all: Avoid fake spider webs. While fake webs pose no harm to lawns, trees, or shrubs, they are a risk to wildlife. Birds and other creatures can easily become trapped in them.



Why Fescue Lawns Need Fall Aeration & Overseeding

Fescue, a cool-season grass, differs from other popular Atlanta-area grasses, like warm-season Bermuda and Zoysia, in a very important way: It does not self-spread. To prevent thinning and bare spots in Fescue lawns, aeration and overseeding (or re-seeding) should be done in the fall.

This service entails removing small plugs of turf to loosen, or aerate, the soil and then spreading new Fescue seed over the existing lawn. The small holes created by aerating allow the grass seed to germinate and take root underground, and also provide the added benefit of making it easier for air, water, and the treatments we apply to reach the turf's root system. The result is a thicker, healthier Fescue lawn.

If you're not on our Platinum program, contact us today for your FREE estimate on aeration and overseeding for your Fescue lawn.

Bare in Mind

by Josh Bare



It's a rare occasion that my wife, Amanda, and I have a night out together, something I'm sure we share with lots of parents of young kids. And when we do, it never involves a high-speed ride in a luxury sports car – until recently.

My dad had been invited to an annual fundraiser for Christian City, a charitable organization that provides a number of programs and services for vulnerable children and teens, as

well as seniors. It was started by a group of churches in 1965 to address the needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned children and over the decades has expanded from a 50-acre residential campus to a sprawling 500 acres, located about 15 minutes from the Atlanta airport. Through the donations of time, money, and talent from supporters,

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September-October Care

Application #5

Please note: At times, we may need to modify treatments due to weather.

LAWN TREATMENTS

Weed Control

All Programs. Warm-season grasses received a pre-emergent that prevents grassy weeds from germinating over winter and a post-emergent to control existing broadleaf weeds. You should see broadleaf weeds die off within the next two weeks. If not, let us know. We'll do a second treatment at no charge.

Platinum. If your lawn needed it, we applied a weed control that targets clump grass, nutsedge, and other grassy weeds.

Fescue Notes. Fescue lawns received a granular starter fertilizer high in phosphorus, which encourages the seeds applied in overseeding to germinate.

Disease Control

Silver Plus, Gold Plus & Platinum. Lawns were treated with a fungicide to prevent brown patch and dollar spot, two fungal diseases common in Atlanta-area lawns.

Aeration & Overseeding

Platinum. In September and October, we will be aerating and overseeding Fescue lawns.

If you're not on our Platinum program, contact us for a free estimate on aeration and overseeding of your Fescue lawn. This cool-season grass does not self-spread and requires aeration and overseeding to prevent thinning and bare spots.

Fertilization

Platinum. Fescue lawns are aerated and overseeded and we apply a high-phosphorous starter fertilizer to promote germination of the new seeds.

ORNAMENTAL TREE AND SHRUB TREATMENTS

Pest Control

Our outdoor Pest Control is sprayed

around the perimeter of your house and in mulched areas to repel ants, fleas, ticks and spiders. Ornamental trees and shrubs received an insecticide to control lace bugs, aphids, and caterpillars and a miticide to control spider mites.

Disease Control

Gold, Gold Plus & Platinum. Ornamental trees and shrubs were treated with a fungicide to prevent leaf spot and powdery mildew.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO UNTIL OUR NEXT VISIT

Stick to the Inch of Water Per Week Rule

Between rainfall and irrigation, all lawns need an inch of water each week. When watering, aim for early morning, preferably before 10 am.

Don't Remove More Than a Third When Mowing

Cutting grass very short stresses it and leaves it vulnerable to drying out. Remove only the top third at each cutting. It is completely safe to mow right after we've applied our treatments.

Mow at the Right Frequency

For optimal appearance, use these ranges as a guideline: Fescue, every 5 to 6 days; Bermuda, every 2 to 5 days; and Zoysia, every 5 to 8 days.

Leave Grass Clippings Behind

They recycle back into the soil, giving your turf a nutrient boost.

Prune Shrubs Regularly

If you don't prune regularly, when you finally get around to it, you'll find you're left with very woody shrubs and sparse foliage.

Questions about our service or your yard? Contact Customer Service at 770.447.6037, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm. If you call after hours, please leave a message and we'll return your call the next business day.

Fall Fertilization Is the Key to Beautiful, Healthy Ornamental Trees and Shrubs in the Spring



Did you know that ornamental trees and shrubs continue to grow during their so-called dormant period? Even though there's not much going on above ground in late fall and winter, their root structures still grow, and need nourishment to do so.

Fall fertilization of ornamental trees and shrubs is included in our Gold, Gold Plus, and Platinum programs. **Customers on our Silver and Silver Plus programs can get this vital service as an add-on.** Contact us for a free estimate.

With just a single treatment of our slow-release fertilizer, your ornamental trees and shrubs will:

- Develop stronger root systems
- Be more resistant to insects and diseases
- Produce lusher growth and greener leaves in the spring.

You can also help care for your ornamental 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.

Fall Container Gardening

Capture the glorious colors and feel of fall with these great ideas for container gardening from Southern Living magazine.

Vibrant Fall Colors. Combine the season's most vibrant hues with "Snapshot Orange" snapdragons, "Purple Pixie" loropetalum, and bright "Penny Clear Yellow" violas. Tuck in the showy foliage of "Sparkling Burgundy" heuchera to complete the look.

Bright Gold Fall Container. Pansies and violas are a sure-fire way of adding long-lasting color to a fall container garden. Mix "Matrix Yellow Blotch" pansies, "Penny Clear Yellow" violas, and "Ogon" golden sweet flags to create a crisp, sunny feel.

Classic Mums. Red, yellow, and orange blooms echo the season's warm color palette. They look especially great in terracotta pots painted to complement the colors of the flowers.

Carve Out a Mumkin. Double the fall impact of mums by making mumkins. Simply hollow out pumpkins and place a container of mums in each one.

Stunning Marigold Mix. "Bonanza Harmony" marigolds bring a burst of autumn oranges and yellows to any container arrangement. They're stunning when mixed with "Angelina" sedums and "Red Giant" mustard.



Show-Stopping Autumn Window Box. With Dwarf Alberta spruce as a focal point, kales, pansies, and violas provide fall colors and textures. English ivy cascading over the sides of the box adds a bit of romance.

Source: <https://www.southernliving.com/home-garden/gardens/fall-container-gardening>

Know the Signs of Fall Pests



As captivating as autumn colors can be, don't forget to keep an eye out for destructive fall pests. Here are the telltale signs of three common intruders.

Lawn Grubs – These live underground and eat the roots of grass, causing brown spots on the lawn. To determine if grubs are the culprit, pull on the brown grass. If it comes up easily with no roots, carefully dig out a section and lift it to check for C-shaped bugs. Another sign of grubs is birds and other wildlife feeding on the lawn.

Bagworms – In small numbers, these caterpillars are not a worry, but an infestation can defoliate any tree or shrub, especially arborvitae and junipers. Look for chewed foliage and small "bags" hanging from tree branches and other surfaces, such as the underside of a porch roof. The bags are made from bits of twigs and leaves and can be up to 2.5 inches long.

Fall Webworms – Look for these caterpillars congregating at the tips of tree branches, where they spin silken webs that they use as nests. Young or small trees, as well as fruit and nut trees, are particularly vulnerable.

As always, if you see these – or any other – signs of trouble with your lawn, trees, or shrubs, contact us for a free service call.

Source: <https://www.bioadvanced.com/articles/fall-insects-invaders-your-yard>

Helpful Contact Information



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Christian City has also been able to expand its programs. Today, foster children live on-site with foster parents in the Children's Village; they've established a program that helps teens who are aging out of foster care and who have successfully earned a high school diploma transition to independent living; and just last year they launched the Foster Care & Adoption program, which actively searches for and equips worthy foster and adoptive parents for kids in need.

My dad has donated to the organization, which is how he came to be invited to the fundraiser. However, he already had a commitment that evening and asked if Amanda and I would like to go. It's for a very good cause, so we said yes. But to be honest, I would have



jumped at the invitation no matter what it was for because of where it was taking place: the Porsche Experience Center. (I couldn't imagine why anyone wouldn't want to go there!)

So, on date night, we lassoed my mom to watch the kids and got dressed, keeping in mind that the evening's attire was described in the invitation as Porsche Posh. When we arrived at the Center, we wandered the two-level museum chock-full

of retired Porsche race cars, vintage streetcars, and even a Porsche tractor. We soaked it all in and I enjoyed every minute of it. But the best part was yet to come: the full-scale track designed to showcase the amazing abilities of a Porsche sports car and to test the skills of the driver – and in our case, the courage of the passengers.

As part of the evening's entertainment, drivers were offering "ride experiences" to anyone willing to put their lives in the hands of a stranger and one very high-tech, very fast car. Amanda and I threw caution to the wind and decided to go for it. We were each belted into a brand-new Porsche and went rocketing off. It was very exhilarating – to say the least! – and kind of scary. Amanda barely made it out of the gate before pleading with her driver to turn down the fun. She hung up her racing gloves after one lap, and I went for the full two. I was proud of her for giving it a try.

After the rides of a lifetime, we settled down to a very nice dinner along with an overview of the charity's outreach efforts. They had an amazing presentation about how some kids' lives have been changed for the better

by having the stability of a family who cares about them. There is so much in life that is easy for many of us to take for granted. The presentation reminded me of how grateful I am for what my parents have given me and the

examples they've set for me. I know Amanda and I do our best to give the same to our children.



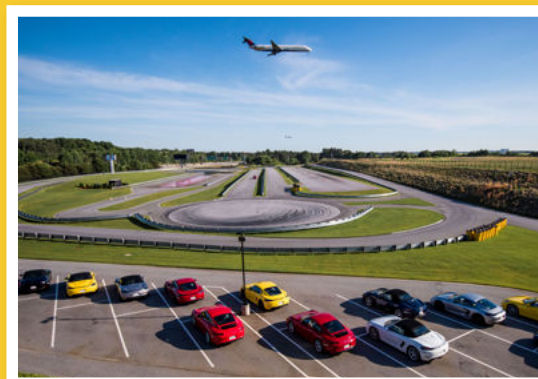
The evening wrapped up with the results of the silent auction, which apparently is a staple of many fundraising events. Well, it turns out, at least at this fundraiser, a silent auction can get quite loud when the



winners are announced. In all the raucous shouting and excitement, Amanda and I saw our opportunity to discreetly slip out. We were eager to get into less poshy clothes, and

I'm sure my mother felt the same about getting home and hitting the hay.

All in all, it was a great evening, despite feeling out



of our element. The Porsche ride was amazing, and I'm glad to have learned about the work of Christian City. If you would like to learn more about the organization and the different ways to support it, check out christiancity.org. Maybe you'll attend a fundraiser one day and have a fantastic, totally unexpected experience of your own.

Please let me know any thoughts you might have on this article or any concerns/questions about your service that I can help with. I can be reached at 678-313-4568 or Josh@Arbor-Nomics.com.