

THE Arbor-Nomics® BUGGETTE



The Secret to a Beautiful Spring Yard? Winter Lawn Treatment

Each spring, you probably notice some yards emerge from winter looking better than others. Some are graced with thick, lush lawns, while others nearby are marked by thin, unhealthy grass struggling to rebound. How can two lawns experiencing the same weather and climate look so different? Chances are one was properly prepared to take on winter, and the other was left to fend for itself.

Winter fertilization is a must for lawns. Many homeowners assume that lawn care isn't necessary during winter since grass stops growing. However, turf still needs nutrients to stay healthy and withstand the stresses of winter.

By fertilizing in early winter, the root system – which, unlike grass, continues to grow through the season – has something to feed on during the lawn's so-called dormant period. The right fertilizer, when used correctly, will also provide the nutrients needed to support the beginning of active grass growth in early spring. Winter fertilization is key to both root health over winter and healthy grass growth as dormancy ends.

Do you need to have winter treatments done by a professional lawn care company?

Winter lawn fertilization can be complex. First, the composition of the fertilizer needs to be appropriate in terms of the nutrients it supplies, as well as the ratios of those nutrients. For example, certain combinations of nutrients won't feed the root system but instead can stimulate the grass to grow, which you do not want to happen during the dead of winter.

Even the right winter fertilizer can cause damage to turf if it isn't applied properly. Either the wrong product or the wrong application technique can do more harm than good.

At Arbor-Nomics, winter treatments are an integral part of our lawn care service, so you can trust that your lawn will be well cared for year-round. Best of all, our team of Certified Landscape Specialists can customize the perfect treatment plan for your yard. Come springtime, it'll be clear that your lawn was prepared to take on winter.



Have a Joyful Holiday & a Happy New Year!

As we gather with family and friends this holiday season, we want you to know that your loyalty and trust in us is something we celebrate. From all of us at Arbor-Nomics to all of you – our amazing customers – we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday and a very happy new year!

Join Arbor-Nomics! We are hiring Certified Landscape Specialists and Outside Sales Representatives. Visit [Arbor-Nomics.com/JoinOurTeam](https://www.arbor-nomics.com/JoinOurTeam) for more information.

Bare in Mind

by Josh Bare



The world's busiest airport, a pro-business climate, and lots of picturesque locations – all these things have helped to make the Atlanta area a film-industry hotspot. Norcross, my town, has seen its fair share of the action, hosting *Ozark*, *Fast & Furious 7*, and *Stranger Things*, to name a few.

Last summer, things got even closer to home. A scout from

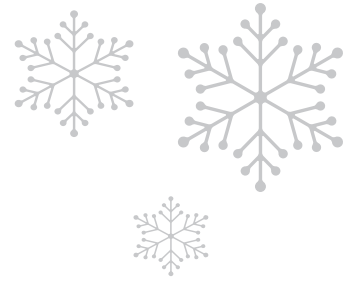
Paramount+ contacted our next-door neighbors, David and Susie, about using their home for a movie set. They also gave us the heads-up that Paramount+ wanted to use our place as an overflow property and that we might be hearing from someone named Sam.

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December Care

Application #7 for all programs.

Please note: There are times when we may need to modify the treatments we apply or our schedule due to weather.



LAWN TREATMENTS

Weed Control

All Programs. Bermuda, Fescue, and Zoysia lawns received a weed control treatment.

Fertilization

All Programs. Fescue lawns were fertilized with a special blend that nourishes both mature grass and the new growth resulting from fall aeration and overseeding.

Soil pH Control

All Programs. All lawns received a calcium-magnesium mix to help maintain optimal soil pH. Turfgrasses do best in neutral soil (5.5 – 6.5 pH); however, natural processes tend to make the soil more acidic over time. Today's application reduces acidity, promoting healthier, more vigorous turf.

Disease Control

Contact us right away if you see discolored patches in your lawn, which could be a sign of a fungal disease. We'll make a FREE service call to check it out and provide an estimate for any needed treatment.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO UNTIL OUR NEXT VISIT

Keep Lawns Free of Leaves

Leaf buildup makes the treatments we apply less effective. It can also smother lawns and promote diseases.

Raise Your Mower Blade

For warm-season grasses, such as Bermuda and Zoysia, increase the height of your mower blade about a half-inch. Keeping grass a little longer this time of year allows it to store up more nutrients to get through winter and flourish in the spring. It's safe to mow shortly after we've treated your lawn; just be sure the grass is dry to the touch.

Water Wisely

It's okay to water your lawn in December if it seems dry. But be sure to drain and shut down your irrigation system if freezing temps are predicted. No one wants burst pipes!

QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR SERVICE OR YOUR YARD?



If you have any questions concerning your lawn, ornamental trees, shrubs or our service, please call Customer Service, Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm at 770.447.6037 or email us at info@arbor-nomics.com. If you call after hours, leave a message and we'll return your call the next business day.



Two Ways to Save by Pre-Paying for 2023



Receive 5% off your 2023 service when you prepay in full by check **OR** Receive 2% off if you use a credit card.

This offer ends on 12/31/2022. Call 770.447.6037 or email us at offers@arbor-nomics.com to make sure you don't miss out on these savings!

What's with the Weeds in Your Fescue?

After fall aeration and overseeding, it's a best practice to skip the weed controls for Fescue lawns. So, for the remainder of the year, customers might have some weeds. But, rest assured that with the first application of the new year, we'll apply weed controls that kill off existing broadleaf weeds and prevent new ones from popping up.



Making Memories Through Holiday Traditions



Traditions and memory-making go hand in hand. That's especially true of holiday traditions and lifelong happy memories for you and the people you share those traditions with.

With the holiday season upon us, now is a wonderful time to add some traditions to your family's celebration or create some new ones of your own. Here are just a few ideas for inspiration.

Bake Up Holiday Cookie Plates

Plan your cookie plates together as a family, and have everyone participate in baking and making up the plates. Bring the kids with you to deliver them, and let the kids present them to teachers, neighbors, friends, your local library staff, etc.

Create Arts & Crafts Gifts

Kids enjoy working on craft projects and love having something to give to family or friends. These can be very simple, like making bookmarks out of colorful paper clips and ribbons, or elevating a wooden clothespin into a cool clip with paint or glued-on decorations. Scrabble tiles can be transformed into an ornament that spells out the recipient's name. Look online to find more simple crafts for kids.

Make Holiday Decorating an Event

If you put up a Christmas tree and lights, make decoration day a special occasion. After the tree is done and the window lights are strung, turn off all the other lights in the house and enjoy a simple but fun dinner sitting around the tree.

Start a Giving Jar

Keep a jar in a common area in the house that family members can put spare change or extra cash in. In December, or whenever you celebrate a holiday that's meaningful to you and your family, take the jar to the bank and convert it to cash. Then decide together, how you will use the money to help out someone in need. Kids love watching the jar fill up, and it's a great way to cultivate the spirit of giving.



We hope these ideas inspire a holiday filled with many memory-making moments.

Adapted from Making Memories Through Holiday Traditions (sherigraham.com)

An Early-Winter Treat(ment) for Your Trees



It might be pumpkin spice season for you, but your trees are craving something else. A bio-stimulant based on mycorrhizae (pronounced my-co-ry-zee) improves soil quality and tree health by protecting roots from pathogens and toxins and increasing the amount of nutrients they can absorb by 10-50 times. It also reduces fertilization and irrigation needs. This application is recommended for trees of any age, especially when transplanting.

Give your trees a health boost: **Call Arbor-Nomics Tree at 770.368.0072.**



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We've been neighbors for 20 years, and in that time we've always been there for each other, ready to help out whenever the need arose. So I've always felt fortunate that we moved in next to them, but I never imagined they'd set us up with a side gig in the film industry!

Sure enough, Sam got in touch, and as he tried to outline what would be happening, it was clear that a lot of different voices were involved and things would be changing all the time. Nevertheless, we were game and worked out a deal (in theory, at least) that allowed the crew to use our driveway for lighting equipment and – gasp! – to walk back and forth across our lawn. (As we've occasionally mentioned in the *Buggette*, heavy foot traffic is not the best thing for your grass.)

Before the deal was even signed, equipment started showing up in our yard – an interesting negotiation strategy, for sure. After all signatures were in place, things really kicked into high gear.



David and Susie relocated to an apartment down the street. Their beautiful craftsman-style home was completely repainted, their landscaping was redone, and an outdoor fireplace appeared in their backyard. Our front lawn seemed to sprout a bunch of small tents and endless cables (even worse than foot traffic!). A giant tent went up in another neighbor's backyard, where a full kitchen and several chefs kept the film crew fed.

To say life was not normal is an understatement. One evening, my mom drove over, and we all went out for dinner. When we got back, we found her car totally blocked in by lighting equipment. Sam was both apologetic and quick with a solution: I drive her home, and Paramount+ gives us more money. This seemed to be Sam's fix for any hiccup – just throw more money at it.

All the excitement lasted a few weeks. Thankfully, we already had a trip planned that enabled us to escape some of the commotion. By the time we returned, the equipment was gone and we had our yard back. And it didn't take long for David and Susie's home to be restored to its pre-filming condition.

What was the movie? *Jerry and Marge Go Large*, starring Bryan Cranston and Annette Bening. You can catch it on Paramount+. Based on a true story about reviving small-town America, it offers clean entertainment and a good plot. There is also a cute dynamic between Annette and Bryan that I'm sure plenty of retired people will relate to.

Despite being in the thick of the film set, we never got to see Bryan or Annette on location. But we did enjoy watching a screening in one of our parks this past summer. It was really fun to see it together as a community, especially with free popcorn. There was no mistaking David and Susie's house, and for one brief second, we even caught

a glimpse of part of the hobby greenhouse in our backyard. It's not going to get us a mention on IMDB, but it was pretty cool to see anyway.



Photo credit: Bruce Johnson

Overall, my neighbors had a good time, and we all made some extra money, as well as some lifelong memories. But I must admit, we were happy to have our yard back to normal and to have David and Susie back next door.

If Hollywood ever comes knocking on your door, feel free to reach out to me. I didn't learn everything there is to know, but I'll be happy to offer some tips.



Photo credit: Bruce Johnson

Please let me know any thoughts you might have about this article. I can be reached at 678.313.4568 or Josh@Arbor-Nomics.com.