

What other turf management practices are recommended this fall?

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In [“How to fertilize turfgrass this fall”](#), Bill Kreuser comprehensively covered fall fertility. What other turf management practices are recommended this fall?

Weed Control. Post emergence products targeting perennial broadleaf weeds in the fall are 20-40% more effective for control than spring applications. Perennial weeds are moving carbohydrates into the roots, rhizomes, and underground storage organs prepping for winter and early spring growth. Systemic herbicides applied in the fall take advantage of this movement and more effectively control top growth and below ground storage organs that are critical for the continued survival of the weed. Applications should be made soon with a repeat application, depending on product, 3-4 weeks later. The later applications should be applied when ambient temperatures are above 60 F. Use of a broadcast application of a weed and feed product is recommended only if fertility is also needed. Spot spraying is the recommended strategy for broadleaf fall weed control if additional fertilizer is not needed. The fall application has an additional bonus of controlling early emerging broadleaf winter annuals, which do not

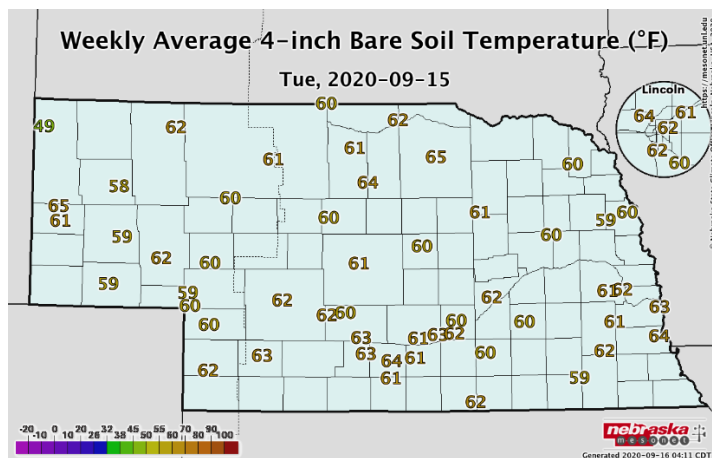


Figure 1. Soil temperatures are currently above 55F in most of Nebraska.

follow the textbook information on germination as well as less off-target injury to deciduous trees and garden plants from spray drift. Winter annual weeds like little barley, common chickweed, henbit and downy brome are more effectively controlled with most preemergence herbicides that target crabgrass. Treatments should be applied when soil temperature is 55 F or below. Soil temperatures are currently above that throughout most of Nebraska (Figure 1). You can track soil temperature near you at

<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/soiltemperature> . Buffalograss turf, when it goes dormant, will tolerate an application of a non-selective herbicides like glyphosate, usually soon after the first killing frost (28 F). The same is not true of cool season grasses. To view the herbicide update presented at our virtual field day, as well as other turf and landscape management info go to <https://turf.unl.edu/NE-turfgrass-research-field-day> . Be patient, the videos are high resolution and take a few minutes to load!

Aeration: Soils that are compacted can be 10 F hotter in the summer and 10 F cooler in the winter resulting in increased winter kill and drought injury. Core aeration (i.e. plugging) is recommended at least once a year and in clay and silty soils when traffic is high, 2 or more times per year. Fall is a great time to aerate and when combined with overseeding can appreciably thicken the stand. Other times of year are also appropriate for aeration, in fact there really isn't a bad time of year to aerate, as long as you avoid weather extremes like late fall, early spring, drought or extreme heat. Aeration reduces run

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off and increases water infiltration, which, in turn, reduces soil erosion and non-point pollution and increases nutrient retention. For homeowners, aeration services are available from most lawn care operators or equipment can be rented from multiple sources. If renting equipment be sure and make sure it is working properly before you leave the shop. Make sure it starts and the coring tines are not excessively worn or broken. Be sure the tines do not have cores from the previously lawn in them. The previously lawn could have been weedy and you transport weed seed etc. when you make the first pass on your yard. There are documented cases where zoysiagrass has established from plugs from a zoysiagrass lawn

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