



Welcome fall!
Stink Bugs
That seems to be the topic of conversation these days, and yes they finally have traps

for the little "stinkers". This is the first year they are out so we are still getting feed back. What we do know is the stink bug wants to get inside our home for the winter they find the tiniest areas to enter the house, before you know it your curtains are filled with them. The traps we sell are universal meaning they work outdoors in the fall with the pheromone and indoors in the winter with a light kit, purchased separately. The light kit works on battery or plug in. The stink bugs are attracted to the light and crawl into the trap. After a few days they dehydrate and you just empty the trap and hang it back up. By the time you read this it will be on the late side for outdoor use but the general idea is that you hang the trap with the pheromone in an area just above your shrubs (by the side of the house) where the stink bugs tend to congregate. This will trap them before they get near the house. One trap covers an area about 10 to 30 foot wide with no large obstacles in the way, meaning if you have a problem in the front and the back of the house you will need two traps. Stink bugs like to hide in shrubs, etc. and young stink bugs can't fly so they need to be able to crawl into the trap. If you haven't noticed the adults don't fly very well either, it is more of a fly and dive into the area they are attracted to. We have a spray you can spray around the foundation, windows, and doors to deter them from going inside, so stop in any of our three locations to have our staff assist you with your stink bug problems.

Lawns

Want to rejuvenate your lawn this fall? First, we need to start with the soil. A soil analysis of your lawn will guide us in using the right products, not guessing. To get a lab analysis of your soil, pick up a soil sample bag and we will send out the sample to be analyzed (\$12.00 fee). It is important to know what your turf's ph, organic content, potash and potassium counts are. That is why we strongly suggest sending out the soil to be tested, we are firm believers in only applying what your lawn needs not just putting something down because the bag says we should. We also offer a free pH test that we do in store if that is all you choose to do. Good soil is the essential beginning to a healthy lawn. We can address your specific needs based on the result of this testing.

Keeping a strong and healthy turf helps eliminate the need for weed controls. Typically this time of year most people will do fertilization and liming. The other thing to address is if you have turf you need to reseed, fall is a great time to do this work. One reason is less competition from the weeds. Due to the cool weather the weeds will slow down in their growth. The fall warm days, cool nights and steady soil temperature will help the seed germinate. A good rule to remember is that grass seed needs good contact with the soil, warmth and moisture. If you have a small amount of weeds in your lawn, you can apply a fertilizer with weed control in mid-August to mid-September and then approximately 6 weeks later reseed. Come in and see us for your specific lawn care questions.

Deer Control

All year the deer have been aggressive and now is the time they like to start rubbing their antlers on the small trunks of trees and really start devouring your plants as the forest food starts to dwindle. There are many different possibilities for protecting the trunks such as paper wrap, plastic wrap, etc. There are also countless numbers of deer controls on the market. Everybody has different results in their yard. Deer controls are all natural and have nothing in them that will harm animals, children, etc. We have learned that rotating your products between two or three different repellents will help keep the deer away. By doing this they don't get used to the same scent or taste. We offer a wide variety of products to help you fight the battle! There is also the option of putting a more permanent barrier up. We have light netting, heavy netting, vinyl coated wire and welded wire available to fence your property. For open areas it is recommended to use at least six to eight-foot fencing, and around the foundation most people can get away with at least five feet depending on how large of a foundation planting you have for them to jump into.

Garden Maintenance

Fall is a great time to cut back the perennials and plant your daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, and all those beautiful bulbs you see in the spring. This is a great time to plant trees and shrubs. It is very important to clean up all the dead plants and leaves. By leaving this dead material in the beds any insect or disease can hibernate there all winter and pop up in the spring. A major problem for vegetable growers is rust and blights. So it is very important to remove the old plant debris from your garden to prevent disease. Disease can winter over on plant tissue that is not allowed to be frozen from winter. The plant life from your garden should be kept on top or out of your compost bin. Crop rotation is a wise choice in your vegetable garden because tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant and peppers carry similar

diseases. Investing in soaker hoses is a great idea in the spring so the plants don't get watered overhead, keeping the leaf surface as dry as possible helps with disease control.

Fall and Winter Equipment Service

Bring your leaf blowers and snow blowers in for servicing before the rush. If it's time for a new machine or if the raking and shoveling is breaking your back we carry Little Wonder and Stihl leaf blowers, as well as Toro snow blowers.

Animal Feeds and supplies and bird seed.

It has been so fun in our Annandale location with the addition of feed and feed supplies. In our feed supply line we carry poultry waterers, feed buckets, salt licks; we carry feed for goats, sheep, chickens, rabbits, horse, dog, cats etc. We have been fortunate to incorporate the Agway line of feed and we also have access to special order "organic" feeds for our customers. We are also working on building the feed line in our Mendham and Chester locations. In all three locations we carry a great line of bird products and seed for all your bird feeding needs,

If you haven't had the chance, please stop in and check out our large selection and let us know what your feed needs are and how we can help you.

The Staff of the Mendham Garden Center