



## Lawn Care and Garden Services

... *an environmentally friendly way*

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### Autumn time Newsletter 2011.

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Lawn Care and Garden Services Newsletter.

I'm often asked "what do gardeners do in the winter months?" as regular maintenance comes to an end. I imagine every gardener has their own story. My experience is; in autumn some regular clients request additional work such as the services included in this newsletter to prepare the garden for winter and ensure springtime colour. As winter begins work includes; pruning, larger scale one-off jobs, installing or renewing fencing and even rock salt gritting!

#### AUTUMN COLOUR

Autumn is a wonderful season full of rich colours and the sound of scrunching crisp dry leaves underfoot. During spring and summer chlorophyll is produced in actively growing plants. It is because of the chlorophyll that many plants appear green as chlorophyll reflects green light.



Autumn colour in Bolam Lake  
(thanks to my Dad for this atmospheric photo)

However, as the growing season comes to an end with shorter day length and less sunlight plants prepare for the winter. Chlorophyll production reduces and as a result other pigments come to the fore and absorb and reflect light giving the magnificent leaf colours we enjoy in autumn.



Autumn colour  
Berlin Sept 2011

#### AUTUMN LAWN CARE

As day length shortens and temperatures fall, mowing becomes less frequent. **Cutting height should be raised** slightly to help protect the grass from the harshness of winter. If required, **scarify** the lawn to remove build up of thatch and allow light and air into the lawn. An **autumn lawn feed** can be applied. Autumn lawn feed is **low** in nitrogen, which encourages leafy growth, as the focus is now on the roots and general health of the grass which is provided by potash and phosphorous.

#### PLANT IDENTIFICATION

**Callicarpa bodinieri var. Giraldii Profusion** – is a good choice for autumn interest. It is a deciduous shrub grown mainly for its dense clusters of colourful berries in autumn and tinted foliage.

Callicarpa prefers a fertile soil and sunny sheltered site.



Callicarpa can provide an attractive backdrop

## CHARITY – BERLIN MARATHON 2011

After months of hard training and preparation, James flew to Germany and completed the 26 mile Berlin marathon. With around 35,000 runners and 1 million spectators, including my wife and I, the city was buzzing! Congratulations to James (in the blue shirt) on a fantastic achievement! Thanks to everyone who sponsored James in raising funds for **Sightsaves** and the **Alzheimer's Society**. <http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/jamesturnbull>



## SOME AUTUMN TASKS TO CONSIDER

Autumn is a busy season in the garden. Here are just a few of the tasks to consider:-

**Fence and gate** –check fence condition and renew / repair if required. Also check on any garden **sheds** for security and weather protection, re-felting if required.



**Bulbs** - now is the time to be thinking about planting spring flowering bulbs such as: crocus, daffodils and tulips. Bulbs can be planted in beds, borders, lawns, pots and some, such as the miniature trumpet shaped daffodil ‘Tete-a-Tete’, do very well in rockeries too!

**Hedge trimming** – last chance to trim hedges before winter frosts arrive.

**Pruning** - this is an important time in the garden life cycle for pruning **certain** plants to ensure plant health and vigour and encourage flowering or fruit production next year. As a rule of thumb, **don't** prune any spring flowering plants as this may remove their flower buds!

## PATIO CLEANING SERVICE -UPDATE

From October I will pilot a pressure washing service initially for small areas of paving flags and/or concrete. The service will, of course, be in an environmentally friendly way using only water without the use of chemicals!

## GIFT IDEAS

**GIFTS** - here's an idea for any garden lover or better still non-garden lover! A Lawn Care and Garden Services gift voucher!



## GREEN MANURES

**Green manures** are quick growing crops, such as Hungarian rye or mustard, often sown in autumn to bare areas of land awaiting planting. Typically dense, quick growing crops which can help prevent weeds from establishing on bare land. The green manure is then dug into the soil to provide nutrients and improve the soil structure before planting the main crop. Some green manures help to break up heavy soils, others may add nitrogen to the soil through ‘nitrogen fixing’ (**Nitrogen fixing** - whilst nitrogen is present in the air all around us, most plants are unable to make direct use of nitrogen in the air. Instead, plants can only absorb nitrogen from the soil through their roots. **Nitrogen fixing** is the process whereby certain plants are able to take nitrogen from air and then make the nitrogen available to other plants via the soil when they are composted or dug in.)

*Happy gardening!*  
*Tony.*