September is a pivotal month. Certainly, we are well into "fall landscaping." This fall activity for the lawn includes renovation, insect control, fertilization, and broad leaf weed control. Further, it includes transplanting of shrubs, specifically B. and B., container grown, and broadleaf evergreens.

LAWNS

Early September in the north and the entire month throughout central Ohio remains the prime time for either new lawn installation or renovation. The air temperature is cool and the soil is warm with photoperiod favoring new grass seed germination, but the aforementioned climatic conditions discourage new weed establishment. In general, by September the weed season is over and cool season grass growth is at its peak. Latitude will dictate how late one can get an early start on replacement or initial installation. Further note that if one is applying granular formulation, it should be applied to set turf areas and not watered in for at least 24 hours.

If there is such a thing as step-wise procedure, the turf areas should be fertilized, mowed, and the broadleaf herbicide applied with 1 to 2 days between each step.

TRANSPLANTING SHRUBS

Container grown trees and shrubs, B. and B. shrubs, and ericaceous plants can be transplanted before leaf drop, or dormancy. In fact, it is a good opportunity to get an early start on replacement or initial installation. With the warm soil and cool air temperatures, root establishment can be quite extensive prior to the onset of winter. It should be noted, at this point, that we have suggested container grown deciduous trees, not B. and B. trees as the transplant shock prior to leaf drop can be extensive. Ericaceous, or broadleaf evergreens, because of their extensive shallow yet dense fibrous root system, are effectively transplanted in September and October. One thing to consider in stimulating lateral root development on ericaceous plants and many container grown trees and shrubs is root slicing. This shallow slicing with a knife into the root system stimulates lateral root development and hastens landscape establishment. If soil amendments are used frequently, they will encourage early development. In this case, we would suggest composted animal manures, peat moss, leaf mold, or COMPOSTED BARK. The addition of organic matter speeds up establishment, conserves moisture, and provides an excellent environment for any plant establishment.

September—the transition month through fall when planting can again be considered and turf establishment and care are paramount.