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**HENRY J. CARROLL  
TREE SERVICE**

Member of the Maryland Arborist Assn.,  
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and the International Shade Tree Conference

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# SEEDS

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## Means of Preventing Winterkill

1. Height of cut: This will vary with the type of turf used. For bluegrass used on fairways, the height of cut should be one inch or higher. Bents are recommended at a height of three-eighths of an inch. Field observations indicate that grass cut at one inch or more survives winter temperatures better than when cut shorter. The height of cut functions in two ways: (a) as an insulating factor, and (b) by providing increased photosynthetic areas for carbohydrate production.

2. Late summer fertilization: Timing is of considerable importance when applying nitrogen fertilizers in the late summer or early fall. Soluble nitrogen will increase the danger of overgrowths and the development of soft grass that is highly susceptible to winter injury. A complete fertilizer that is low in available nitrogen and phosphorus and high in potash should be used. The recommended ratio of a 1:1:2 ratio in pounds per thousand square feet should be sufficient.

3. Removal, or breakup, of ice sheet formations.
4. Apply protective fungicides.
5. Assure good drainage.
6. When spring comes and the ground begins to thaw, water lightly and regularly.
7. Try to keep traffic off frozen greens.
8. Aerification and spiking should be done to relieve compaction.
9. Excessive thatch elimination before freezing temperatures.

Norm Culbertson  
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