

# GET TOUGH

on  
Dollar Spot  
Fusarium Patch  
Leaf Spot\*  
Brown Patch\*  
Red Thread\*

\*Approval Pending

counteract the force of winter winds prior to root growth. Deciduous trees and shrubs offer little wind resistance and staking may be unnecessary.

Fall is an excellent time to apply mulches. Mulching helps conserve moisture, discourage weeds, and reduce frost heaving and possible root damage. Composted materials (bark, wood chips, or leaf mold) provide moisture and temperature benefits without taking soil nitrogen to decompose.

Recent research has shown excessively thick layers of mulch, more than three inches, can damage shallow-rooted plants. Mulch depth should be watched and overmulching avoided.

## Turf

Sodding new turf areas is still possible through October with good success, depending upon the weather. As one moves south, sodding can continue through November. A rule of thumb is one should be able to mow the sod twice before the onset of winter.

October is a good month for broadleaf weed control. Advantages to fall weed control include reduced damage to deciduous plants by drift and leaching, desired cool-season turfgrasses have time to fill in for weeds before the next weed season (June), and areas shaded by deciduous trees are now sunny.

Difficult to control weeds, such as chickweed and henbit, and standard dicot weeds, such as plantain and dandelion, can be controlled as long as they are actively growing. Standard phenoxy herbicides are still effective in October and burn potential is reduced. **WTT**

## LANDSCAPE LOG

By Douglas Chapman, Dow Gardens, Midland, MI

### OCTOBER JOB FOCUS

1. Trees and Shrubs
  - a. transplanting
  - b. mulching, winter protection
2. Turf
  - a. sodding
  - b. weed control

October is a key month for transplanting deciduous trees and shrubs, weed control, late season sodding, and winter protection.

### Trees and Shrubs

Fall is second only to spring as the best time to transplant deciduous trees and shrubs.

Physiologically, plants require less moisture after losing their leaves and becoming dormant. Transplanting success is improved to the 80 to 95 percent range by using balled and burlapped plants.

Basic guidelines for transplanting are: the hole should be 6 to 12-inches deeper and wider than the ball; addition of manure, compost or peat moss to topsoil for conditioning; and mulching with less than 2-3 inches of composted bark, peat moss, or leaf mold.

Plant slightly above the soil level in poorly drained soils and slightly below in sandy, well-drained soils. Soak the soil around the plant thoroughly before mulching.

Staking is generally advised for conifers or evergreens to

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