



Gardening by the Moon

September 2022 Digest

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Fall is here!

Fall is here, well, at the very least Pumpkin Spice Lattes and football are back! Not sure the Texas weather has gotten on the Fall bandwagon, but the free water and slightly lower temps have been a bonus! With the change of seasons, welcomes the opportunity to plant new color and recover your landscaping from the brutal summer heat.



Fall Color

by Jennifer Hall



I love all things fall! Football and flowers are two of my favorite things. Fall is an excellent time for planting. Winter hardy shrubs planted now through November and trees planted in October or November will be well established by spring's growing season and will endure next year's heat much better. The warm weather will soon give way to cooler temperatures allowing for decorating with fall foliage and pumpkins that can withstand cooler temperatures. Some good fall color options include Dianthus, Petunias, Marigolds, Snap Dragons, Chrysanthemums, Alyssum, Sedum, and Salvia. Happy fall planting!

Jennifer Hall has been a consultant at Dr. R.E. Moon + Associates for 20 years. Her husband, four children, and landscaping hold her heart.

Turf Care

by Dr. Louie Gradilla

Although it seems that we have turned a corner towards Fall and find the 100+ degree temperatures squarely in our rear-view mirror, the summer heat has the potential to continue to cause lingering effects on your turf. One such effect that our team is seeing with increased frequency as of late is that of Pythium Blight (also known as greasy spot) in drought-stressed turf. As seen in the images below, often the diseased turf area will have a dark brown transition zone between yellow drought-stressed turf and healthy green turf. Many times, this diseased transition zone will appear as if motor oil has been spilled on it and will often feel greasy or slick to the touch.



The bad news is that if this disease is left untreated it will kill your turf. The good news is that Pythium Blight infection is easy to spot now that you know what to look for! The equally good and encouraging news is that this disease is effectively controlled when any of the products pictured below (*Spectracide Immunox*, *Scotts Disease EX*, or *Bio-Advanced Fungus Control for Lawns*) are applied as per label instructions.



As with any disease, prevention is the best course of action. Our team recommends that homeowners always water their turf during the early hours of the morning so that the turf will dry out when the sun comes up. Do not water in the early evening hours as this will allow turf to stay wet and warm throughout the night which will create the ideal conditions for Pythium Blight to grow and spread. In cases where Pythium Blight is present, apply one of the products pictured above as per label instruction, and do not mow your turf until the disease has been controlled. The purpose of pausing your turf mowing is to prevent the spread of the disease to other healthy areas of your turf via your mower. Ultimately, the goal is to restore the health of your turf heading into the Fall and Winter months.

A wise man once said, “Now you know. And knowing is half the battle.”

Dr. Louie Gradilla joined Dr. R.E. Moon + Associates in 2019 as a horticultural consultant. He enjoys traveling and adventuring with his wife and 4 kids.

To Water or Not to Water?

By Jacob Cheatham

September in Texas can present various challenges for your landscape. You never know if we will have cooler temperatures and rain or if the scorching heat will linger on. For those reasons, it is important to closely monitor your watering of all your plants to help them thrive in this transition time. Begin to reduce the amount of time your irrigation system is running, especially as it starts to get cooler. When substantial rain events happen, stop all watering until the ground begins to dry out again. On the other hand, warmer temperatures mean that the ground will dry out faster and require more watering. During this time of year, it is wise to examine your landscape every few days and check for moisture throughout your yard. This will allow you to adjust the watering to keep your landscape properly irrigated without drowning it, plus your water bill will get a break!

Jacob Cheatham is our newest consultant with Dr. R.E. Moon + Associates. He earned his bachelor's degree at Oklahoma State University and is working towards his Masters's degree from Texas Tech.



September Moon Tips:

- 01**
Control Weeds!
The best way to prevent weeds next year is to apply a pre-emergent weed control between September 15th and October 15th in your turf and bed areas. Apply a pre-emergent weed control such as *Preen* or *Halts*.

- 02**
Fertilize
Fertilize* your turf and beds 4 times per year to encourage healthy, vigorous growth of your plant materials.

**Use a slow-release fertilizer that has a high first number on the fertilizer bag.*
- 03**
Enjoy the outdoors
Now is a great time to get outside with the family. Go to a pumpkin patch with the family and pick out pumpkins and fall color.

Kid Tip: Enjoy the cooler evenings, planting fall color together outdoors. Kids love getting their hands dirty in the soil and helping out, so let them help!