



# Fall Lawn Care Tips

Spring and summer may be the seasons most often associated with landscaping and lawn care, but tending to lawns and gardens is a year-round job. If lawn and garden responsibilities dip considerably in winter, then fall is the last significant chance before the new year that homeowners will have to address the landscaping around their homes.

Fall lawn care differs from spring and summer lawn care, even if the warm temperatures of summer linger into autumn. Homeowners who want their lawns to thrive year-round can take advantage of the welcoming weather of fall to address any existing or potential issues.

- Keep mowing, but adjust how you mow. It's important that homeowners continue to mow their lawns so long as grass is

growing. But as fall transitions into winter, lower the blades so the grass is cut shorter while remaining mindful that no blade of grass should ever be trimmed by more than one-third. Lowering the blades will allow more sunlight to reach the grass in the months ahead.

- Remove leaves as they fall. Much like apple-picking and foliage, raking leaves is synonymous with fall. Some homeowners may wait to pick up a rake until all of the trees on their properties are bare. However, allowing fallen leaves to sit on the ground for extended periods of time can have an adverse effect on grass. Leaves left to sit on the lawn may ultimately suffocate the grass by forming an impenetrable wall that deprives the lawn of sunlight and oxygen. The result is dead grass

and possibly even fungal disease. Leaves may not need to be raked every day, but homeowners should periodically rake and remove leaves from their grass, even if there are plenty left to fall still hanging on the trees.

- Repair bald spots. Summer exacts a toll on lawns in various ways, and even homeowners with green thumbs may end up with a lawn filled with bald spots come September. Autumn is a great time to repair these bald spots. Lawn repair mixes like Scotts® PatchMaster contain mulch, seed and fertilizer to repair bald spots, which can begin to recover in as little as seven days. Before applying such products, remove dead grass and loosen the top few inches of soil. Follow any additional manufacturer in-

structions as well.

- Aerate the turf. Aeration reduces soil compacting, facilitating the delivery of fertilizer and water to a lawn's roots. While many homeowners, and particularly those who take pride in tending to their own lawns, can successfully aerate their own turf, it's best to first have soil tested so you know which amendments to add after the ground has been aerated. Gardening centers and home improvement stores sell soil testing kits that measure the pH of soil, but homeowners who want to test for nutrients or heavy metals in their soil may need to send their samples to a lab for further testing.

Fall lawn care provides a great reason to spend some time in the yard before the arrival of winter.

## Wentworth Active Motorcyclist Aged 98 Years

By Hope Bridgewater

Wyman "Bun" Betts at age 98 years can be seen scooting around Wentworth on his motorcycle, he attends groups in Masstown every Tuesday. He is a member of the Amherst Motorcycle Club Defenders, Chapter 11, which meets annually for a Bash with parades of about 60 motorcycles.

Betts was presented two years ago with a Bordertown Biker Bash plaque which states: "Presented to Wyman

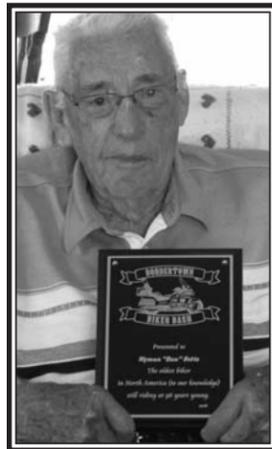
"Bun" Betts the oldest biker in North America (to our knowledge) still riding at 96 years young." This plaque was presented in 2016 when he was till 96 years of age and not 97 until August 15.

Betts has an easy and friendly personality which makes him outgoing for questions by fans and at age 98 he hears clearly without any hearing aids and eats the same normal diet which he has had over the years. He has driven

and owned Honda motorcycles for over sixty years.

Betts owned a lumber mill where he worked for many years, and in the winter he worked at Ski Wentworth.

I asked him what his secret was about living a long, healthy life, and he said, "No secret. I just lived the same kind of life I always had: no special diet and no prescribed exercise. I do exercise with biking, but that is my personal choice."



Betts with plaque from Bordertown Bikers Bash presented to him in 2016, when he was 96, turning 97 on August 15th. It describes him as the oldest biker in North America's, to our knowledge. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)



Wyman "Bun" Betts, 98, prepares to take off for his weekly Tuesday trip to Masstown Market to meet up with his biker friends. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)



As soon as he zippers up this "Defenders, Chapter 11, N.S." jacket Bun Betts will be ready for another motorcycle trip. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)



Jean Wood & Wyman "Bun" Betts with photo of motorcycle. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

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