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Advancing the Turfgrass Industry in New Jersey and the World



NEW JERSEY  
**TURFGRASS**  
ASSOCIATION

**TURF TIP TIME #3 with the NJTA:  
Focused Fall Fertilizer Applications**

For turfgrass managers, autumn is the time to recover from summer and prepare for winter, which means seeding, cultivation, weed control, and

fertilization (pumpkin spice latte in hand).

Fertilizing increases blade density, enhances green color, encourages growth, and speeds recovery from damage and seasonal turf stresses, but timing is of the essence. Applying the correct fertilizer for your soil conditions at the appropriate time helps the turf generate and store the food it needs for growth and development.

“Autumn is the most important time of the year to fertilizer turf,” said Jack Higgins, an Agronomist at EarthWorks. “In the fall, the plant is putting all of its energy towards storing carbohydrates (stored photosynthetic energy) in the root system in order to grow roots, recover from summer damage, and most importantly, have the energy to come out of dormancy in the spring for vigorous growth.”

Scientific research shows that nitrogen uptake declines later in the fall. The fertilizer that isn't taken up by the plant sits in the soil until the following spring or is leached out during winter.

“That is why the time between Labor Day and Thanksgiving is the best time for focused fertilizer applications,” said Higgins. With the holiday weekend behind us, NOW is time to start preparing for next year's growing season.



*Test soil to determine nutritional requirements.*



*Always consider fertilizer type, amount, and timing.*



*Recognize quick versus slow-release products.*



**NJTA's TURF TIP TIME Brought to You By:**

**Jack Higgins**

Jack Higgins is an agronomist and account manager at EarthWorks , a Pennsylvania-based organic fertilizer manufacturing company. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Turfgrass Science from Penn State in 2007. With over 10 years of experience, Higgins is a recognized turfgrass fertilizer expert. He also serves as a director on the NJTA board of directors.

[www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org) | (973) 812-6467 | [execdirector@njturfgrass.org](mailto:execdirector@njturfgrass.org)



**Save the Date:**

December 4-6, 2018

2018 Green Expo: Growing Turfgrass Together

The Borgata Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ  
*Registration Opening Soon!*

