

# THE LADYBUG

## Don't Let Halloween Décor Take a Toll on Your Lawn

Costumes, candy, excited kids. What's not to like about Halloween? But keep in mind that some decorations can have frightful effects on your lawn. Here's how to protect your turf.

**Be careful with inflatables.** The larger the inflatables and the longer they're displayed, the more damage they'll do to grass. Move them around frequently or opt for a paved area.

**Use mulched beds.** Placing decorations on mulch is safe, as long as they are not resting on any plants.

**Put it on the porch.** The front porch is perfect for displaying scary stuff. It spares your lawn and sends a clear invitation to trick-or-treaters.



## Protect Your Ornamental Trees and Shrubs This Winter

You love your ornamental trees and shrubs, and you're not alone – we do, too. And we want to help protect them from unpredictable winter weather. Sadly, last year's record-breaking cold temperatures killed many cherished ornamentals and left others struggling to recover. Some of the deaths and damage could have been prevented or minimized with proper care.



Hopefully, this coming winter will be kinder, but it's important to understand that even typical Atlanta winters can cause damage to trees and shrubs, especially non-native ornamentals. Our program for ornamental trees and shrubs, Simply Plus, makes them stronger, healthier, and better able to stand up against seasonal stresses.

**For stressors related to winter in particular, our two powerhouse treatments are fertilization and dormant oils.** Just a single application of our fertilizer is all it takes to keep ornamental trees and shrubs nourished throughout the colder months. The result is:

- Stronger, more vigorous root systems
- Increased resistance to extreme temperatures and other stresses
- Lusher, healthier growth in the spring

The dormant oil treatments we apply target harmful insects that spend the winter in your trees and shrubs. The oils smother the insects and the eggs they lay, preventing them from emerging in the spring only to do damage to young, tender foliage and stems.

### **Our program for ornamental trees and shrubs is Bee Safe.**

It includes eight organic applications, scheduled over a year, to protect them from insects and disease – safely and naturally. The Simply Plus program is the single best way to help ornamental trees and shrubs flourish during the growing season and keep them healthy during the winter season, so they can rebound beautifully in the spring.

Contact us today for a free estimate.



## Application #6

### Lawn Care

#### Fertilization

Lawns received one of our proprietary blends of organic fertilizer to condition and nourish the soil. We applied a cool-season combination to Fescue grass and a warm-season mixture to Bermuda and Zoysia lawns.

#### Weed Control (hybrid option)

We applied two synthetic (non-organic) weed controls: one to prevent grassy weeds from germinating during the winter and another to take care of existing broadleaf weeds. We also did a disease inspection and will recommend treatment if needed.

### Ornamental Tree & Shrub Care (Simply Plus Program)

#### Pest Control

We applied a bee-safe dormant oil to protect leaves and stems from insect damage. This oil does not contain neonicotinoids ("neonics"), so it is not harmful to bees or other pollinators.

## Application #7

### Lawn Care

#### Fertilization

Lawns will receive an iron supplement to balance the pH level and help your grass grow green and strong.

#### Weed Control (hybrid option)

Lawns will be given synthetic weed controls to prevent grassy weeds and kill off existing broadleaf weeds. We'll also inspect for diseases and make any needed treatment recommendations.

### Ornamental Tree & Shrub Care (Simply Plus Program)

#### Pest Control

Ornamental trees and shrubs got another application of our bee-safe dormant oil. The oil smothers damaging insects that spend the winter in trees and shrubs, but because it contains no neonics, it's not harmful to bees or other pollinators.



Let nature do the work

## Application #8

### Lawn Care

#### Fertilization

Lawns will receive calcium and magnesium supplements to improve absorption of vital nitrogen and strengthen the root system.

#### Weed Control (hybrid option)

Both Hybrid and Organic lawns will receive targeted weed control as needed. We'll also conduct our final disease inspection of the year.

### Ornamental Tree & Shrub Care (Simply Plus Program)

#### Pest Control

Our application of a bee-safe dormant oil prevents damage from insects that spend the winter in trees and shrubs. The oil is neonic-free, so it is not harmful to bees or other pollinators.

## What You Need To Do To Support Our Treatments & Your Yard

### Ensure Your Lawn Gets an Inch of Water Each Week

If rainfall doesn't provide enough water, make up the difference with irrigation. To discourage fungal diseases, avoid watering at night or late in the evening. The best time to water is before 10 am; when that's not possible, aim for around 4 pm.

### Mow at the Right Frequency for Your Type of Grass

To keep your lawn looking its best, follow these guidelines:

- Fescue - every 5-6 days
- Bermuda - every 2-5 days
- Zoysia - every 5-8 days

### Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn

They recycle back into the soil, giving your turf a nutrient boost.

### Prune Shrubs Regularly

Regular pruning prevents woody shrubs and sparse foliage.

Questions about our service or your yard? Contact **Customer Service at 770.777.0764**, Monday through Friday, 8 am-5 pm, or our branch manager at **Nathan@SimplyOrganicTurfCare.com**. Leave a message after hours; we'll return your call the next business day.

## Benefits of Fall Aeration & Overseeding for Fescue

Summer is tough on Fescue. The heat and sun stress this cool-season grass, often leading to thin or bare spots. Fall aeration and overseeding help it rebound and flourish.

Aeration loosens up compacted soil, enabling water, nutrients, and air to reach the roots. It's also the perfect preparation for overseeding, or spreading new Fescue seeds over the existing lawn. Fescue is not self-spreading, so overseeding is the only way to fill in thin or bare spots and have a lush lawn.

**Call us soon for a free estimate. We finish up aerating and overseeding in October.**



## Helpful Contact Information

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