

An eight-step guide to tackle fall yard clean-up

1. **Clear out debris** – Survey all your plant beds and remove fallen foliage, leaves and weeds. This will remove possible nesting spots for harmful critters.
2. **Trim and prune** – Get out your trimming saw and/or shears – well-sharpened, of course – and trim and prune away. Hire a professional if any limbs are too high or daunting to tackle.
3. **Dig and plant** – Add some color and variety to your yard by planting fall annuals (such as pansies or hardy mums), shrubs or spring bulbs.
4. **Rake and mulch** – Left unattended, fallen leaves can quickly smother your lawn. Rake your leaves, shred them if you have a shredder, and use them as mulch around young trees and planting beds. Or gather them up and bring them to a Ramsey County yard waste site.
5. **Aerate your lawn** – By aerating – poking holes into your lawn – you will ensure that moisture and nutrients can more effectively reach grass roots. You'll also prevent water from pooling on your lawn.
6. **Fertilize a final time** – Before your lawn takes a winter snooze, give it the nutrition it will need in the spring to come back healthy, green and vibrant.
7. **Seed and re-seed** – Fall can be a great time to seed or over-seed your lawn, as long as you get your grass seed down soon enough to germinate and it's well-watered and protected from hungry birds, squirrels and other critters.
8. **Reduce and trim** – Gradually reduce your lawn mower height between now and your final cut of the season, as shorter grass in the fall helps ensure a healthier lawn in the spring.

Bring your yard waste to any of our Ramsey County Yard Waste Drop Off Sites. For a handy guide listing all you need to know, including locations of the sites nearest you, check

[RamseyRecycles.com/YardWaste.com](https://www.ramseyrecycles.com/YardWaste.com).