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## Autumn Proof Your Lawn

Just as bears go into hibernation, so does your lawn. Many homeowners think lawns need less care during fall. The fact is, during this time of year, grass is rapidly absorbing energy, moisture and nutrients in preparation for a long dormant winter. Follow this six simple steps and you will appreciate the results next spring.

**Mow On.** Just because it's cooling off doesn't mean you should stop mowing. Make sure you are continuing to water in the evenings as needed. Towards the end of fall, drop the mower's blade to its lowest setting. This will allow the grass to absorb optimal sunlight and decrease the chances of the grass turning brown during the winter. Also, make sure you are continuing to water in the evenings as needed.

**Rake those leaves.** Raking leaves will help prevent your grass from dying. Dead leaves left on the lawn absorb rain and morning dew and ultimately, suffocates your lawn. The longer the leaves are left on your lawn, the higher the chances are that it will kill your grass or grow fungal diseases.

**Aerate your soil.** Fall is the best time to aerate your lawn so that oxygen, water and fertilizer can easily reach the grass's roots before hibernation.

**Apply Top Dressing.** After raking and aerating your lawn, apply a thin layer of soil, or top dressing, over your lawn. This will help even out the terrain and reduce the need for supplemental fertilizer.

**Don't let your grass go bald.** Autumn is an ideal time to fix any bare or bald spots in your lawn. The quickest and easiest way to do this is with an all-in-one lawn repair mixture.

**Lastly, don't get caught in the weeds.** Did you know weeds are in the most energy-absorbing mode during fall? They will drink up all the resources and continue to grow out of control. Be sure to use some form of weed deterrent or herbicide consistently until temperatures drop below 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

Read the full article by visiting: [2-10.com/blog](http://2-10.com/blog)

## Roasted Hatch Chile Queso Dip Recipe:

### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 medium white onion, minced
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 5-ounce can evaporated milk
- 1 large pinch salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- 3 cups mexican-blend shredded cheese
- 1/4-1/2 cup half & half
- 3 hatch chiles, roasted, stemmed and seeded, minced (or poblano or anaheim)

### Instructions

- 1) Heat olive oil in a medium-sized saucepan. Add onion and garlic, sauté for approximately 5 minutes or until starting to soften. Sprinkle flour over onion mixture, stir and cook for two minutes. Stir in evaporated milk and continue to cook until thickened and heated through, about 3-5 minutes. Add a large pinch of salt (a pinch is three fingers and a thumb) and freshly ground black pepper.
- 2) Add cheese and stir until incorporated (mixture will be very thick). Add half & half a few tablespoons at a time, stirring to incorporate, until you reach desired consistency. Stir in minced hatch chiles and stir until very hot. Serve immediately with bread cubes or tortilla chips.

Recipe courtesy of [thewickednoodle.com](http://thewickednoodle.com)



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