



ENJOY YOUR
BACKYARD
ALL FALL LONG



Enjoy Your Backyard All Fall Long

Fall is here and with it comes cooler weather and shorter days. You may think that the arrival of fall means everyone heads indoors for the next two seasons but autumn doesn't have to signal that outdoor fun has come to an end.

The display of changing leaves and myriad tree foliage makes the fall a beautiful season, so you might want to take advantage by spending time outdoors. Think about how great it would be to read your favorite book while enjoying the sunset or cozying up with someone to gaze at the stars.

With a few simple changes and some preparatory seasonal lawn care, you can protect your yard from the potentially harsh winter ahead while still enjoying your outdoor space until the first snowfall.



Many of the projects we've included in this guide are simple enough that most homeowners can DIY them but we also have plenty of options for those that are not so confident in their DIY skills. Batchelder & Collins is your destination for high-quality products that can take your backyard to the next level. Now let's plan what that looks like.

01

Keep Warm All Fall Long



Staying warm is key to being able to utilize your backyard even after the colder air comes. What better way to stay warm than with a fire pit? If you are the handy type, you can source bricks from your nearest Batchelder & Collins location and build your own. But for those who are not as confident in their DIY abilities, there are countless freestanding fire pits on the market like the one below.



A roaring fire pit is the perfect way to have fun and stay warm on cool autumn nights. You can use the fire pit to roast marshmallows, you can use it as the centerpiece for a small gathering of friends or family, or even try your hand at a roasting competition (with food, not insults).



02

You Can Still Grill!

So many think that they have to throw in the towel on grilling once the summer is over. But we are here to tell you that you can still grill during the fall season!



Pro tip: we love to use a smoker because it's a great way to cook outdoors amid dropping temperatures, plus we love the smoky flavor that this technique gives to any food you choose. Smoking meats is pretty much an all-day activity, but it's one that's super simple and easy because it only requires that you check on it a few times during the day.



03

Let There Be Light

One of the most notorious elements of fall is the noticeable shortening of the days. It can be hard to motivate yourself to spend time in your backyard when the sun sets by 6 PM, but with proper lighting, you can really cozy up the atmosphere and spend time outdoors late into the night. There are so many options for adding light to your outdoor space, from lanterns to tiki torches and string lights.



While these are your more classic options, there are plenty of unique options for you to choose from as well. For example, these [cracked tree stump lamps](#) will light up your backyard with a rustic, homey charm. Think about lining these along the perimeter of your yard to get that glowing, enveloped sensation every time you're in your backyard.



04

Get Cozy!

You may not realize this but patio furniture can be seasonal. The perfect chair and table set for hot summers may not be able to stand up to harsher fall and winter conditions. If you want to get the most you possibly can out of your backyard, you may want to consider investing in all-weather seating.



If replacing all of your patio furniture is not within your budget and you want to use what you already have, you can treat the furniture to help it last for years to come. Cold and rain will ruin wood, metal, and rattan that have gone untreated. But wood or rattan pieces should be oiled to help protect you from splintering and protect the furniture from weather conditions just as metal can be coated with rust protection.

Taking the necessary precautions upfront can ensure you don't have to store away your furniture and instead can keep it in your backyard all fall long.



How to Prepare Your Lawn & Garden for Fall

05

STEPS

STEP #1: REMOVE THE LEAVES

While the carpet of colorful autumn leaves is gorgeous to look at and nice to play in, it's not good for grass or a garden. The leaves trap moisture and block the light so come spring, the grass underneath may be soggy and/or decaying. As the leaves fall, blow or rake them away as often as you can.



STEP #2: TRIM ROGUE BRANCHES

Trim damaged, diseased, or dead branches that are hanging onto your trees as otherwise they can break and fall, causing damage to your home and yard during the next hurricane season or snowfall in winter.

STEP #3: CLEAN OUT YOUR GUTTERS

Late summer is the perfect time to clear leaves and other debris from your gutters. Check for proper drainage, clear out any blockages, and rinse it clean with a hose.

STEP #4: DRY OUT YARD TOOLS

Drain all the water from your hoses, fountains, and irrigation systems before storing them away for winter. Otherwise, water left standing can cause damage to that equipment.

STEP #5: FEED THE LAWN

Send your lawn into the winter with all the nutrients it'll need. Add lawn fertilizer to encourage root growth to ensure you're enjoying a lush lawn in the spring.

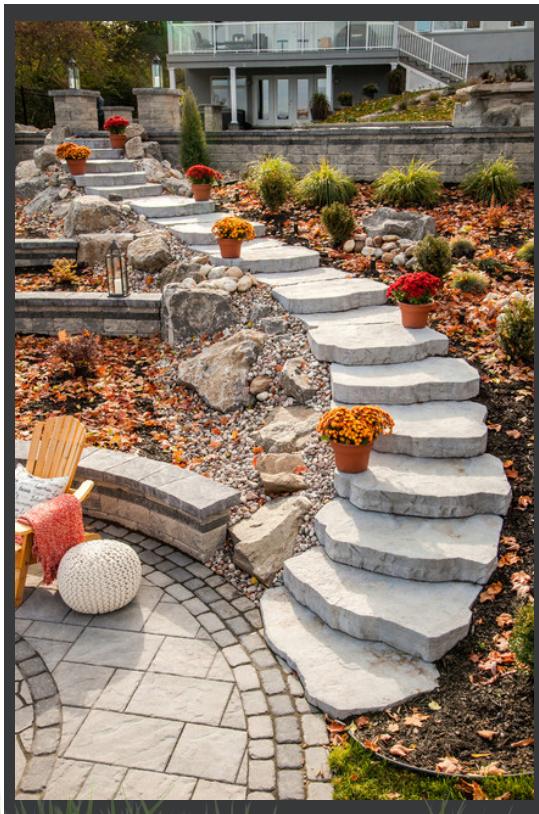
STEP #6: RAKE, MULCH, AND PROTECT YOUR PLANTS

Fallen leaves can not only suffocate your grass but also the plants in your garden. A helpful tip is to rake up the leaves, shred them, and use them as mulch for small trees, shrubs, and flower beds.

You'll also want to take the time now to protect your cold-sensitive plants like perennials, shrubs, and roses. Add mulch to the base then wrap them in cloth barriers to prevent damage from freezing.

STEP #7: PROTECT YOUR DECK

Prevent mold and mildew from growing on your deck by giving it a good power wash before the season ends. If you don't have a pressure washer, you can rent one from your local garden store. Once the deck is clean and dry, you can add a waterproofing stain to protect the material from moisture damage during the winter.



STEP #8: AERATE THE LAWN

Breaking up the soil does great things for your lawn as this step will keep water from pooling and guarantee that nutrients can reach the roots in the winter. A garden fork will work for smaller yards while a walk-behind aerator is ideal for larger yards.