

Autumn Months : September, October, November

- ⚡ Do not drain pools into the lakes. Pool water contains chlorine, among other chemicals, which is hazardous to aquatic life. Pools should be dechlorinated before draining – this can be accomplished by either chemical agents or by simply allowing the pool to sit for several days for the chlorine to naturally evaporate (concentrations below 0.1 mg/L). Pool water should be tested to ensure it is pH balanced (between 6.5 and 8.5) and chemically safe before draining it onto your property – do NOT drain pool water to the storm sewer or drainage ditch, onto your neighbors' properties, or to the lakes and streams.
- ⚡ Leaves should be raked and either hauled from site or composted. Decomposing leaves and other organic matter uses the oxygen dissolved in the lake water, lowering the amount of oxygen available for fish and other aquatic life.
- ⚡ Limit pesticides to be used as a last resort, and to a very specific area. Not only will you kill the pests, but also many beneficial insects that would otherwise prey on them! Try to choose native, disease-resistant plant varieties; remove pest-infested plant residues in the fall.
- ⚡ Do not over-fertilize! Have your soil tested (you can contact the County Extension Office at 847-818-2901 for information on how to get such a test done) to ensure what type of fertilizer you need, you might not even need any! Mulching your grass-clippings instead of bagging them can reduce the amount of fertilizer you need. The best time to apply fertilizer is in the Fall!
- ⚡ Pick up after your pets. Pet waste is filled with bacteria which can be dangerous to people and animals alike. Additionally, decaying waste consumes oxygen from the water, and can release ammonia – both of which can result in killed fish.
- ⚡ Don't feed ducks and geese. Waterfowl contribute a large amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium – the same chemicals used in fertilizers – to the environment through their droppings. So much so, that they can damage a lake's ecosystem. Canadian geese will stay in an area as long as there is food and ice-free water, and twenty resident geese can be the equivalent of dumping a one hundred pound bag of 10% phosphorous into the lake each year. Not feeding them will encourage them to migrate.