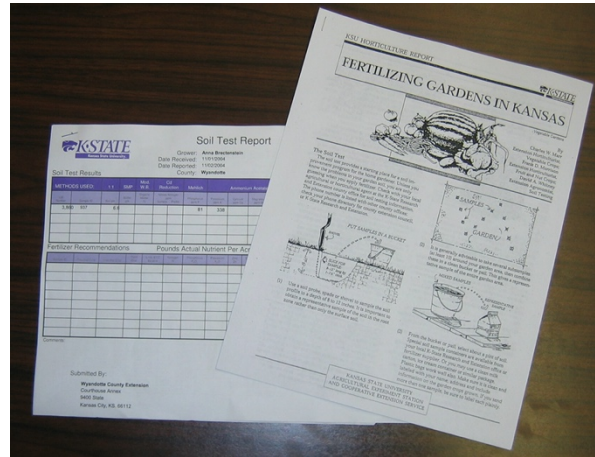


## It's Time to Fertilize & Core Aerate Cool Season Lawns

September is here, and it is an ideal time to aerate and fertilize cool-season lawns – Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue.

Cool-season grasses are coming out of their summer doldrums and beginning to grow more vigorously as days shorten and temperatures moderate, especially at night. Cool-season grasses naturally thicken up in the fall by forming new shoots at the base of existing plants. Bluegrass re-establishes itself, spreading by underground stems called rhizomes.



K-State recommends fertilizing established fescue and bluegrass lawns with 1 to 1.5 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in September. Then apply another pound of nitrogen in November. Core aerate first so it is easier for the fertilizer to work into the soil. Fall is a great time to take a soil test to determine the fertilizer needs of your lawn, as well as, in preparation for putting your vegetable gardens to bed for the winter.

Soil samples forms and instruction guides are available on our county website, as well as a paypal link where tests can be paid for online. You can bring a soil sample in to our office Monday through Friday. Please see our webpage for location and hours to insure a staff member is available to process your test.

For more information on lawns and gardens, contact Lynn Loughary, WyCo Horticulture Extension Agent, 913-299-9300 ext. 104, [lloughar@ksu.edu](mailto:lloughar@ksu.edu).