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Daylight Savings Time Ends Week Later

From 1986 through 2006, DST began on the first Sunday of April and ended on the last Sunday of October.

Under Section 110 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the U.S. Department of Energy is required to study the impact of 2007's DST extension no later than nine months after the change took effect.

Congress has retained the right to revert to the DST schedule set in 1986.

One potential issue is that some northern regions on the western edge of time zones are, for the first time since the 1974-75 "almost year round" DST experiment, experiencing sunrise times that occur after 8am.

Beginning in 2007, daylight saving time (DST) was extended in the United States. DST started

on March 11, 2007, which is three weeks earlier than usual, and it will end on November 4, 2007, which is one week later than usual.

This results in a new DST period that is four weeks longer than in previous years.

Observance of DST, and "Summer Time" in much of Europe, is often different around the world; many areas, countries and territories shift their clocks at different times throughout the year.

During these changes, clocks are usually shifted by one hour. Some locations follow a set of standard, uniform rules for the start and end dates of DST, but some locations determine the dates on a much more dynamic basis.

Unless certain updates are ap-

plied to your computer, the time zone settings for your computer's system clock may be incorrect during this four-week period.

In particular, you must make sure that both your operating system and your calendar programs are updated.

Daylight saving for Halloween

One bill that has been pushed for the past several years, especially by Wyoming Senator Michael Enzi, is the Halloween Safety Act to extend DST by one week to end on the first Sunday of November instead of the last Sunday in October.

The idea was to allow children to go trick-or-treating in more daylight. This extension was achieved with the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Fall Gardening Tips Given

As nightly temperatures drop, days become shorter, and leaves turn shades of orange and gold, nature is giving us the signal to put away the lawn mower and string trimmer and take out the rake.

Prime gardening season may be over, but fall cleanup chores and key preparation for next spring have just begun.

"After spending many mornings cultivating and caring for your landscaping, it's easy to forget how vital 'shutting down' your yard and tools for the winter is.

But it's a critical step for the next gardening and landscaping season," says lawn care authority Heidi Ketvertis, brand manager of Troy-Bilt, a manufacturer of outdoor power equipment.

Creating a checklist is a simple way to organize fall chores into manageable tasks.

If you feel overwhelmed, grab friends and family and encourage them to get outside and help with the fall cleanup; in exchange, you can return the favor on their yards.

Ketvertis emphasizes a few must-do tasks to ensure your yard and tools reap the benefits next spring:

Walk around your landscaping: Remove any flowers or shrubs that didn't grow well and tidy up the area for new bulbs.

Make a note of what plants didn't work and try something new next year.

Weed beds now to prevent

pesky weeds from growing next spring. Remove decorative stones or collectibles and bring them inside.

Fertilize the lawn: Fall is a great time to fertilize, reseed and touch up bare spots before temperatures plunge.

Try fertilizing and reseeding once in early fall and once in late October.

This process pumps nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium into the roots, giving them a boost to grow in the spring.

Add leaves to the soil: Instead of raking leaves out of the flower beds, spend a few extra minutes tilling them into the soil to enrich it for next season.

Chop up extra leaves with a quick pass of the lawn mower and add to a compost pile, or take them to the nearest recycling center.

Plant new bulbs: Spring flowers like tulips, daffodils and hyacinths should be planted in the fall to develop healthy root systems before the soil cools.

Clean up the vegetable garden: Start preparing your garden for next spring by cleaning out dead plants and adding in organic matter from your compost pile.

Be sure to till the soil well to help to refresh the soil's nutrient levels by breaking down old vegetable organic matter.

Trim trees: Remove all dead or dying tree limbs. Trim healthy

trees after leaves turn, to encourage healthy growth next spring. For easy cleanup, place an old sheet or tarp underneath the tree to catch the trimmings.

Prep your hand tools: Grab a wire brush and scrape off the caked-on dirt from tools such as hoes and shovels, then clean with soapy water.

Wipe metal surfaces with an oiled rag. Lubricate all pivot points and springs and wipe down wooden handles with boiled linseed oil to prevent drying and cracking.

Sharpen bladed tools like pruners, and spray bare metal with a penetrating oil to prevent rusting.

Prep your lawn equipment: Empty the gas tank and oil crankcase of lawn mowers, string trimmers and edgers.

Wipe the entire unit with a clean rag to protect its surfaces and grease all lubrication points.

Store your lawn equipment in a clean, dry place: If equipment is light enough, hang on the wall in the garage.

Check sprinklers and hoses: Make sure to drain all hoses to avoid freezing and breaking.

If you have a sprinkler system, shut it off to prevent pipes from freezing, and store extra hoses in the garage, shed or basement.

Wash down lawn furniture: Give the lawn furniture a good cleaning before you store it away. Wash all fabric cushions and store them inside, out of damp weather conditions.

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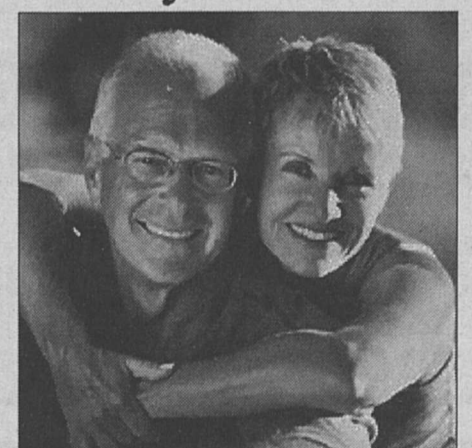
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