

Timely Turf Tips

October 2009

The forecasters were right! We DID have snow on Columbus Day. Snow in the first half of October has fallen only eight times in the past 60 years. High temperatures near 38 degrees and low temperatures of around 26 degrees made covering flowers and veggies a futile endeavor. I now have 8 less houseplants to worry about. And that Creeping Charlie I was going to spray; too late! However, there's still plenty to do in the yard.

Lawn:

- Apply your last application of fall fertilizer (Hugo Feed Mill brand 25-0-15) now through October 31 at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen/1000 sq. ft.
- Lower your mower! Setting your mowing height to 2"- 2.5" for your final cut of the season will help prevent snow mold in the spring.
- Rake leaves from the lawn and compost OR mow with a mulching mower if leaf fall is not too heavy.
- Now is the best time to dormant seed your lawn. Dormant seeding is where grass seed is planted late in fall so it stays dormant until spring. Then as conditions warm in spring, the seed is already in place and ready to germinate. The seed should be planted so there is good seed to soil contact.
- It's too cold to spray for weeds. Spraying now will have little effect. Wait until next spring.
- For more lawn information, check out U of M Bob Mugaas' update at <http://tinyurl.com/yhdhmb>

TIMELY TURF TIP:

To lessen the chance of salt or pet damage, apply Gypsum in November before the ground freezes.

We also have our own lawn care expert onsite to answer any questions! Call or email Steve Marier at 651-429-3361 steve@hugofeedmill.com or visit our website: www.hugofeedmill.com

Trees:

- Fall is a great time to pull buckthorn; an invasive that out-competes native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture. A specialized tool to pull buckthorn is available to all Washington County residents at no charge. Contact Wendy Griffin at 651.275.1136 ext.24. For more info: <http://tinyurl.com/9pue2>
- Evergreens are dropping their orange needles. This is normal and nothing to worry about.
- Wrap young and thin-barked trees to protect against sunscald and animals.



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Gardens:

- Plant spring bulbs now (tulips, daffodils, crocus)
- Remove garden debris after the first frost to help minimize soil diseases and insects. <http://tinyurl.com/yjcu6bp>
- Dig summer blooming bulbs and store for winter (gladiolus, dahlia, etc.)
- Leave ornamental grasses, sedum and coneflowers for winter interest and feed for birds.

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