

Timely Turf Tips

August 2010

Have you noticed the self-propelled flowers in your garden this year? Despite the devastation to the monarch population in their over-wintering grounds in Mexico this last year (<http://tinyurl.com/2fpxr67>) monarchs and many other butterflies are out in full force this summer. Do you have the flowers they need and like? Planting gardens with flowers that attract butterflies is a natural way to attract these lovely creatures to your yard, garden, patio, or even window sill. <http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef006.asp> Beautiful and graceful, varied and enchanting, small but approachable, butterflies lead you to the sunny side of life. And everyone deserves a little sunshine. ~Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg, North American Butterfly Association

Lawn Care

- Would you believe that Mid-August through mid-September is the best time of year to plant grass seed? Longer, cooler nights and reduced weed seed competition give grass seedlings a better start toward establishment. See our coupon below for a great deal on grass seed!
- Use a starter fertilizer 10-10-20 when planting grass seed. Make sure the fertilizer doesn't contain herbicide, as seedling grasses are particularly vulnerable to damage. Even corn gluten meal, which is totally organic, will stop grass seeds from sprouting.

Garden Tips:

- Don't let summer's heat discourage you from maintaining your gardens. Regular watering, weeding and harvesting (or removing faded flowers in flower gardens) will keep them productive through early autumn or later.
- Dig up and divide crowded iris beds that didn't bloom as well as they once did. Throw out the woody older center portions of rhizomes. Replant healthy, plump outer portions just below the soil surface. <http://tinyurl.com/28axw8m>
- Avoid blossom end rot in tomatoes by keeping an even supply of moisture in the soil.
- August is the time of year many birds are looking for winter feeding territories. To keep birds coming back to your feeders in any season check out <http://tinyurl.com/24msdmn>
- Too many zucchini? Donate extra squash, beans, carrots, tomatoes and even herbs, to local food banks. Call ahead to make sure they have facilities to keep the food fresh until it's used or given away.

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