

Timely Turf Tips

March 2010

Get a Jump on the Growing Season! Start flower and vegetable plants from seed indoors. Plants can get as much as 4-6 weeks head start on seeds that are started outside, directly in the ground. Growing your plants from seed is a great way to stretch your gardening budget and for trying plants that may not be available at local nurseries. Here are a few suggestions for starting seeds indoors.

- Use a sterilized soil or potting medium, wet soil before planting seed.
- Cover seed as directed on packet and set in a warm area or on a special heating pad for seed starting.
- Use a plastic dome or plastic wrap to keep moisture in.
- Once the seeds germinate, loosen plastic wrap (domes can be kept in place) and move into bright light.
- Artificial light for 14 hours/day helps keep plants from getting leggy.

Seeds to Start this Month: Coleus, Dusty Miller, Nicotiana, Pinks, Snapdragons and Verbenas NOW. Seed Alyssum, Impatiens, Moss Rose, Salvia, Pepper, Broccoli, Early Cabbage, Cauliflower, Head Lettuce, March 15th. Late March, early April; start your tomatoes. You can also start tender bulbs mid to late March: Cannas Caladiums, Dahlias and Tuberous Begonias

For a complete guide on seed starting: <http://tinyurl.com/ydw7xdj>

March Madness

- Repot and start fertilizing houseplants now
- Beat the rush! Bring your lawn mower in this month for maintenance and blade sharpening. Call Hugo Mill Outdoor Power today for your appointment: 651-429-8163
- Stay off the lawn! Walking on and raking the lawn while it is still wet and muddy underfoot will unnecessarily uproot many healthy grass plants and contribute to increased soil compaction.
- In late March, uncover tender roses and perennials if the weather is looking good

Product Spotlight: Wood Duck and Bluebird Houses

Considered the most beautiful of all North American waterfowl, **wood ducks** were endangered years ago. Today wood ducks are an abundant species due to protection, restrictive hunting regulations and thousands of nest boxes placed near and in wetlands. **Bluebirds** have also made a dramatic recovery in Minnesota due to the restoration efforts by the Bluebird Recovery Program of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the MN DNR since 1977. Continue the effort and add a wood duck and/or bluebird house to your yard. Clean out existing houses early this month before they return. For more information on wood ducks and bluebirds:

<http://www.woodducksociety.com> <http://www.birdsforever.com/bluebird.html>

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