

# Timely Turf Tips

November 2011

**Water! Water! Water! Don't put away your hoses yet!** Our trees, shrubs and perennials have not received enough water these past 8 weeks to help survive our winter. We have more than a six inch water deficit since September 1; among the driest in our recorded weather history. If you have not been watering your landscape, it's not too late to get it ready for winter. Start with watering your evergreens and newly planted trees first, then shrubs, then perennials. Your lawn also needs water at this time of year. Be sure lawns get around 1 inch of water per week. Keep watering until the ground freezes.

**There's still a few garden chores left to do before the snow flies!**



1. Dig and store tender bulbs. <http://tinyurl.com/2eokbt>
2. Plant tulips and other spring bulbs now for Spring color.
3. The leaves that should be raked and bagged by now are still on the trees. Continue to rake leaves off the lawn and mow one last time to the height of 2" to avoid disease next spring.
4. There are many methods for protecting tender roses from our harsh winters. The Minnesota Tip Method is one of the best: <http://tinyurl.com/3smv2av>
5. To prevent breakage from freezing, empty and store ceramic and clay pots. Use old potting soil as a top dressing for your perennials.
6. Remove any foliage that was affected by Powdery Mildew or other diseases over the summer. Toss in the trash; do not compost! Sanitize garden tools afterwards with a 1 part bleach/ 9 parts water solution.
7. Mulched leaves and other organic material can be added to new beds until the soil freezes. This will decompose through the winter and will be ready to turn under at spring planting time.
8. As soon as the ground freezes to a depth of ½ inch or more, (mid November to mid December) cover any tender or recently planted shrubs, roses and perennials with at least 6 inch of clean fresh marsh hay. The goal is to let your plants get down to dormancy temperature just below freezing and then hold at an even temperature until it's time for them to wake up in spring.

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