

# Timely Turf Tips

## October 2011

**The Pepper Tasting Results are in!** Thanks to all the patrons that came out for our Pepper Tasting! Everyone had their favorite; however, out of the 51 pepper varieties that were sampled, these were ranked at the top of the class: Jimmy Nardello, Doe Hill, Ancient Sweet, Buran, Steve's Long & Sweet, & Beaver Dam. Pepper plants are very easy to grow, offer high-yields, and are tolerant of a variety of sites. Look to purchase these pepper plants at the Mill next spring!

### Lawn Care:

- This weekend looks like excellent weather to spray for those pesky perennial broadleaf weeds such as dandelion and creeping Charlie. Best control with Weed Free Zone and/or Speed Zone is achieved when nighttime temperatures are above 45° F but less than 85° F during the day.
- A late season application of nitrogen fertilizer should be put down before the end of October. It is often easy to tell which lawn has had a late season application of nitrogen as they will usually be noticed as the first lawns with healthy growth and a dark green color in early spring. However, if you've had a snow mold problem in the past, talk with Steve first before fertilizing.
- So long as our grasses continue to grow, we should be continuing to mow as needed. Reduce mowing heights to 2.0 - 2.5 inches for the last two or three lawn mowings of the season.
- September was dry and your lawn (and gardens) will likely benefit from an additional watering or two before shutting down for the winter. Water new trees and shrubs until ground freezes.

### Garden Tips:

- Tackle garden clean-up chores before cold, wet weather makes them more difficult. Pull frost-damaged annuals and vegetables, cut back damaged perennials, empty large containers and bring them into the basement or garage where they won't freeze and crack. Begin lifting tender bulbs and other tuberose roots such as gladiolus, dahlias, cannas, and caladiums. Bring in houseplants now.
- After the ground has begin to freeze is the time to add extra mulch to insulate tender perennials. You can use bagged leaves right over beds. Remove plant debris once its frost damaged.
- As temperatures cool, Box Elder Bugs may cluster on the warm, sunny sides of buildings. Spraying them outdoors will reduce the number that come inside through cracks and become a nuisance indoors.

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