

Timely Turf Tips

October 2012

WATER! EVERYTHING!! And don't stop until the ground is frozen. September was the second driest on record and the landscape is suffering. Start with your trees, they're the most expensive to replace: water once a week for big trees, more often for smaller trees that have been recently planted. Experts at the U of M: "If our big trees go into this next winter stressed from lack of water, we could be in for a significant tree kill next spring." Take action today! Next on the watering priority list is shrubs, followed by perennials and lawn. Also, fall lawn care practices may be different this year. Check out this U of M link: <http://tinyurl.com/8gjtxuv>

The Results are in for the Pepper Tasting Event!

There are lots of sweet pepper varieties available to the backyard vegetable gardener. Then there are the sweet pepper varieties *only* available through the Hugo Feed Mill! When most people think of sweet peppers, they think about bell peppers. But there are plenty of other varieties of sweet peppers that are great for grilling or stuffing or frying. The possibilities are endless. We had the chance to sample 52 varieties of sweet peppers at the Mill last month and after all the tallies were counted, 'Ancient Sweet', 'Doe Hill' and 'Jimmy Nardello' were the top 3 winners. If you're interested in growing any of these peppers or any of *your* personal favorites, give Steve a call (651-429-3361) or email steve@hugofeedmill.com and he'll see to it that they'll be available next spring.



October Check List

- Last chance to bring in houseplants. Clean thoroughly to rid the plants of outside bugs.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs outdoors before nasty weather makes the job too difficult.
- Dig up tender bulbs, like cannas and dahlias, for storage after the foliage dries up or is killed by frost.
- Harvest homegrown pumpkins before frost
- Experts are predicting one of the worst Box Elder Bug year ever. Spraying them outdoors will reduce the number that come inside through cracks and become a nuisance indoors.
- Remove plant debris once its frost damaged.
- A late season application of nitrogen fertilizer should be put down late October. At this time of year, the nitrogen is taken up into the plant and stored where it can be quickly accessed next spring by the growing grass plant. It's 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.

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