

# Timely Turf Tips

September 2012

**The results are in for the tomato tasting event!** Steve selected, planted, watered, fertilized, grew, harvested, washed and sliced 44 varieties of tomatoes for our tasting pleasure last Saturday. We came, we tasted and we rated our favorites. Very seldom do you get a chance to sample such a variety of tomatoes side by side. The cherry tomatoes took the all around top honors with 'Sugar Snack' in first, followed by 'Sun Sugar' and 'Chocolate Cherry'. In the full size tomato category, 'Pineapple' came in first with 'Primo Red', 'Snowball', 'Amana Orange' and 'Bonny Best' rounding out the top five. (The only non-heirloom variety being 'Primo Red') If you're interested in growing any of these tomatoes next year, give Steve a call (651-429-3361) or email [Steve@hugofeedmill.com](mailto:Steve@hugofeedmill.com) and let him know what you'd like to grow!

## Moles Raise Turf and Aggravation

Nothing piques a gardener's ire more than evidence of these persistent diggers: damaged turf, uprooted plants, undermined patios and random piles of dirt. However, other pests cause similar damage so it's important to study the suspect's clue: meandering ridges of raised turf or soil (soft when stepped upon) plants undermined or pushed from the ground but not eaten, a few small holes—verdict: mole. It can dig surface tunnels at approximately 18 feet an hour. Over the course of an 8-hour period, a mole can produce 144 feet of tunnel! So, how does one remove these pesky critters? The best and most reliable form of removal is trapping. There are many forms of traps on the market, including scissor traps and harpoon traps. These traps should be placed in the moles' most used tunnels. For more information on trapping, the U of M has great tips: <http://tinyurl.com/8q6j9h4>



## September Check List

September is *the* best time to tinker with the lawn, bring in house plants, plant pansies and dig tender bulbs.

- One of the very best times of the year to be fertilizing your lawn is from about Labor Day through the middle of September.
- Early September is an excellent time to be doing some overseeding of damaged areas of the lawn.
- Apply weed-killer and fertilizer for lawn care, but not to newly seeded areas or water stressed lawns.
- One of the best times to be aerating the lawn is right around Labor Day and before you fertilize.
- Water, water, water! Everything.
- Continue picking the vegetable garden. Donate excess to food shelf.

Previous issues of Timely Turf Tips newsletters are available at our website: [www.hugofeedmill.com](http://www.hugofeedmill.com)

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