

Timely Turf Tips

August 2013

Last month, Timely Turf Tips mentioned to watch for Japanese beetles and, sure enough, they showed up in my garden with an appetite. Using integrated pest management ideology, I monitored the garden to assess the number of beetles and the damage they were causing. When control seemed necessary, I decided to follow the recommendations of the University of Minnesota Extension by using a jar of soapy water to kill the handpicked beetles. They suggest dropping the beetles into the jar or knocking them into the solution. This works best if done in the morning or late evening. Remember to continue to monitor your garden since adult beetles can fly a mile or more in search of a food source. If the infestation is great enough to warrant using a pesticide, see the helpful crew at Hugo Feed Mill for product suggestions.

Yard and Garden Tips for August:

- If you fertilize only once per year (low maintenance), then the second half of August is the time to apply fertilizer. If you like to fertilize twice in the fall, then apply now through mid-September and after October 15. Apply your fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. We recommend Hugo Feed Mills brand 25-0-15 a 40# bag covers 10,000 square feet (see coupon below.)
- Mid - August is the best time to seed new lawn, overseed, patch bare spots, and install sod. There isn't as much competition with weed seed in the fall and longer, cooler nights make it easier for grass to become established. For best results, do it before September 20. Remember to apply a starter fertilizer before the seed/sod. See the folks at the mill for information about soil sampling now so that you know the proper amount of fertilizer to add when preparing the area. If you have a large area to seed we have a Hydroseeder for rent that will help you do a large area in a snap.
- Iris beds not blooming as well lately? It might be time to divide crowded beds. Throw out the woody older center portions of rhizomes and replant the healthy, plump outer portions just below the soil surface. See MN Extension information at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/M1267.html>
- By now your vegetables should finally be coming in. Remember to harvest frequently and remove any rotten fruit. If you want you can plant a second crop of cold season vegetables such as peas, radish, spinach, lettuce etc... this link offers a great chart on how long till harvest and whether the vegetable tolerates frost or not. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/components/M1227.pdf> Remember to donate your extra produce to your local Food Shelf. They really appreciate fresh produce this time of year.
- Dig that garlic. Check out this link <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/DC7317.html#> for information on harvesting, curing, and storing the bulbs.
- Keep pulling weeds before they go to seed and drop next year's nuisance crop.



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