

Timely Turf Tips

July 2013

Tomato early blight With the wet weather we are experiencing at the start of the growing season gardeners can expect an increase in Tomato Early Blight. Lessen the occurrence of this disease by watering early in the day and keeping the moisture off of the leaves as much as possible. Try to limit working among wet plants since this can increase the spread of the disease to other plants. It is important to keep the soil from coming in contact with the foliage and developing tomatoes, so staking the plants is suggested. Mulching is another idea to limit the amount of soil that could be splashed up onto the plant. If you remove infected leaves, consider placing them in the trash or use some other method of destroying them. They should not go into the compost. Fungicides are available to help control the spread of the disease. Please follow all label directions for the product. (see coupon below)

Yard and Garden Tips for July:

- When tomato and pepper plants start to flower and produce fruit you should side-dress them with a complete fertilizer such as 12-6-6 Growers Special (available at the Mill). If the plants are flowering when still small, you should nip the flowers off to give the plant more time to develop. Don't worry, the plant will still have time to produce plenty more.
- If you have garlic planted, it's time to cut the scapes (tops). They can be used in salads, stir-fry, pesto, pickling or anything you would use garlic for. Don't be afraid to be creative.
- Watch for squash vine borers on your pumpkins, summer and winter squash plants. The larvae can take out the whole plant. You can prevent this by treating your plants right now with an insecticide. For more info on Squash Vine borers, visit this link <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/squash-vine-borers/>.
- The Japanese beetle is a serious pest for turf and ornamental plants. The grubs eat the roots of turf and the adult beetles eat the foliage of over 300 plant species. If you have Japanese beetle problems, stop in and let the Hugo Feed Mill help you. This link will help you with identifying these offenders. <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/japanese-beetles/>.
- Ants seem to be especially active this year. Identifying what type of ant you have is key to picking the correct product to treat the problem. <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/what-to-do-about-household-ants/>. Ants will typically bring food to their nest and follow the same path back and forth. Try setting out an attractive food and follow the ants to their nest. Now that you know where the nest is you can use the proper product to kill the entire colony.
- Now that the rains have let up, the flying insects will be out in full force. Check out this new insect trap. DYNATRAP is smokeless, pesticide and odor free. It can be used indoors or out, doesn't need any propane or expensive attractant. Check out their website and the coupon below. <http://www.dynatrap.com>



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