

# Timely Turf Tips

## May 2013

**Just for the record, there was measurable snow in May in 1991...** But we are moving forward! Remember to give your lawn a break and don't walk on it or rake until the ground is firm. Aerating should not be done until at the least two mowings and ideally in the fall.

Now is the time to plant cool season vegetables. We have packaged seeds, bulk seeds, onion sets and seed potatoes. I am attaching a link from the U of M that has general information on planting your vegetable garden including information such as what is safe to plant now, spacing and days to maturity for a large variety of vegetables. <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG1422.html>

Do you have a sunny area with soil that is too poor or compacted for growing herbs and vegetables? You might have great luck with Straw Bale Gardening. Straw bales go through a 10 day conditioning process with fertilizer. Afterwards your seeds or seedlings are grown directly in the straw. Stop in to purchase the Straw Bale Gardens book by Joel Karsten. We can also take care of your straw bale and fertilizer needs.

We will be sending out an email when the tomato and pepper plants are in. It will be a hard decision on which of the 240+ varieties of peppers and 60+ tomatoes to take home! Planting tomato or pepper plants too early can be risky because both plants need warmth day and night. If they are placed outside too early it may set them back for weeks. Planting your tomatoes in late May and peppers in early June is usually safe.



Returning bluebirds have been spotted as well as the wrens. Now would be a good time to come in for housing to encourage those insect eaters to live in your yard! The male wrens come back about three weeks before the females to build multiple nests. When the female returns she selects one of them and rebuilds it. May 1<sup>st</sup> orioles were spotted in St. Paul so make sure you get your feeders out for them too.

The robins have been very grateful for all of the landscaping that still has edible fruits since the extended winter has caused a lack of insects and worms. May is the best time to fertilize those trees and shrubs. We have a variety of granular fertilizers and stakes so come in and take advantage of the coupon below.

Damage to thin barked trees and shrubs with tooth scrapings is caused by voles if the marks are 1/4" and rabbits if 1/2" wide. The most noticeable sign of voles are trails of dead grass appearing after the snow melt. Usually the grass grows back quickly with raking and a little seed for larger patches. For useful control information: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/M1280.html>

And lastly, Crabgrass...It is eventually coming..! Crabgrass is a warm season grass and this year the soil temperature will take longer to heat up. We will monitor the soil temperatures and send out an email when it is time to apply crabgrass preventer. Use the coupon below so you're ready when the time comes.

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

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