

Timely Turf Tips

January 2014

Happy New Year! Wow, it is cold outside. It seems that last month was just a warm up, weather-wise, for the frigid start of the New Year. January is a great time for planning future projects for the garden or yard. Use those seed catalogs that are starting to arrive by mail to plan a colorful bouquet of bloom for this spring. Spend time at a library reading horticulture magazines and gardening books for ideas to add to the garden/yard. Look back at any notes from the last growing season and plan for additions or adjustments to maximize the beauty and bounty of your space. Having a plan in place for the spring will help guide oneself when spring does arrive and free time is short.

Cold Weather Tips

Birds are looking for high calorie and high fat foods to provide the energy needed for winter survival. Hanging suet and keeping the feeders full will help them meet their needs. A water source during the winter is important for birds too. Consider adding a bird bath heater to your outdoor garden.

Outdoor pets require additional food and a fresh, unfrozen source of water when the temperature drops. It's important to check to see that the water is not frozen. Think about using plastic or rubber containers and add a heater if you are not able to replace the water frequently enough.

After walking your pet outside on winter streets, it is a good idea to wipe off the pads of their paws when they enter the house to remove any salt or chemical residue that may irritate the skin or stomach lining if licked off.

Plan for Winter Interest Next Season

Colorful fruit: American Cranberrybush, Compact American Cranberrybush, Staghorn Sumac, Smooth Sumac, barberries, winterberry, and crabapples can provide color and a food source next winter. Colorful stems: Red stemmed or yellow dogwoods and willows like Flame or Coral bark willows provide contrast to the whiteness of a winter landscape. Ornamental grasses can add interest to the landscape with their movement and texture. Be sure to cut them to the ground before any new growth starts in the spring.



Red Osier Dogwood

We have calcium chloride and magnesium chloride for cold weather ice melting. Also, poultry grit is great for providing traction. Keep some in your car and by the front door to reduce slipping.

Previous issues of Timely Turf Tips newsletters are available at our website: www.hugofeedmill.com

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