

# Timely Turf Tips

## October 2014

**The tomato and pepper tasting results are in.** Thank you to all the people that attended and helped in the judging each Saturday. We enjoyed reading your comments about all the different varieties of tomatoes and peppers that were available and how tasting now will help decide the choices to get from the mill in the spring. Of the 83 varieties of tomatoes on display, *Sun Sugar* was top-rated again this year, followed by *Lemon Drop*, *Tangerine*, *Roma Cherry*, and *Pineapple Hawaiian*. The 120 varieties of peppers were divided into sweet, mild, and hot varieties. The top vote-getter for sweet peppers was *Doe Hill*, followed by *Apple*, and *Kalman Hungarian*. First for mild peppers was *Kaleidoscope*, second was *Beaver Dam*, and tied for third was *Hawaiian Sweet* and *Tam Jalapeno*. The favorite for hot peppers was *Golden Cayenne*, followed by a tie with *Aji Crystal* and *Tulip*, and next was *Tiberon Poblano*. Check out our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/hugofeedmill> for additional pictures.

### Lawn and Garden Care Tips for October:

- Keep mowing the grass at 2 ½ to 3 inches tall, gradually decreasing to 2 to 2 ½ inches over the last two or three mowing of the year. This decrease at the end of fall should aid in leaf removal and reduce the chance of snow mold next spring.
- Mulch light accumulations of leaves with the lawnmower, being sure the grass is visible through the shredded material. Heavier buildups of leaves need to be removed to prevent damage to the lawn over the winter. Excess leaves can be bagged and set aside to be used to protect tender perennial beds. Just remember to wait and apply the bags after the ground is frozen.
- Apply fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. The University of Minnesota Extension recommends all fertilizer be applied before October 15. We recommend Hugo Feed Mill's brand 25-0-15, with 50% slow-release nitrogen for a longer feeding period. A 40# bag covers 10,000 square feet and there is a coupon attached below.
- The recent frosty temperatures can trigger a change in plant growth that aids in controlling tough-to-kill broadleaf weeds, like creeping Charlie, dandelion, and clover. Spot treat weeds with broadleaf weed control products like SpeedZone and Weed Free Zone for weed-free grass next spring.
- When cleaning up the garden, dispose of any diseased plant material, overripe fruit and vegetables in the trash, not the compost bin. Removal of this material should help decrease disease and overwintering insects.
- Consider leaving some sturdy, disease-free plants to add some interest to the landscape this winter. The garden will benefit from any trapped snow and the birds will enjoy any remaining seeds.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, early this month before the weather turns too cold for this project.
- As temperatures fall, Box Elder Bugs may cluster on the warm, sunny sides of buildings. Spraying them outdoors will reduce the number that find their way inside and become a nuisance. Save by using the discount coupon attached below.



### Plant your garlic by mid-October.

See the folks at the feed mill for your seed garlic. Choose from five varieties or plant them all to find out your favorite. They can help with planting directions, fertilizer, and mulch.

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

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