

Timely Turf Tips

September 2014

This Saturday, September 6, is our 6th Annual Tomato Tasting Event held from 9 AM – 1 PM. Do not miss the chance to sample over 50 tomato varieties!

September is a month of change. Summer is over; children are back to school. The growing season is ending and gardens are being harvested. Shorter days and cooler temperatures are a harbinger of winter. All of this seems to lead to an ending, but it really is a time to think about a beginning. This is the month to begin to get ready for next year. Record what plants did well or did not do well in the flower/vegetable garden this year by jotting notes or taking photographs. This information will be helpful when it is garden planning time this winter. Check out the annual tomato and pepper tasting events scheduled at the mill this month for new varieties to try (see the dates and times listed on this tip sheet.) Ready the yard or garden by following the tips below and get a head start on next year.

Lawn Care Tips for September:

- Now that rain and cooler temperatures have arrived, it is recommended that you lower the cutting height of the lawnmower and keep the grass 2 ½ to 3 inches tall with regular mowing. The University of Minnesota Extension suggests this height for fall, with a gradual decrease to 2 to 2 ½ inches over the last two to three mowing for the year. This decrease at the end of fall should aid in leaf removal and reduce the chance of snow mold next spring.
- Thin patches in the lawn can be reseeded through September 20. Fall weather conditions of longer, cooler nights and more expected rainfall give grass seedlings a better start toward becoming established. Come see us at the mill for advice and seed.
- There is still time to apply a fall application of fertilizer if you have not done that very important lawn care task. Whether you apply one, two, or three applications per year, all of the U of M Extension's MN home lawn fertility programs recommend a fall application around Labor Day. Apply your fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. 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.
- It's a great time to apply broadleaf weed control products like SpeedZone and Weed Free Zone for dandelion, creeping Charlie, and clover control. Fall growing conditions allow the product to be taken up by the entire plant effectively dispersing the herbicide all through the plant, resulting in fewer pesky weeds next spring.



Garden Care Tips for September:

- Remove any diseased plant material from the flower/vegetable garden and dispose it in the trash, not the compost bin. Overripe produce should also be removed to discourage insects and other unwanted guests.
- Shop for spring flowering bulbs. Planting time is mid-September through mid-October. Bone meal is available at the mill.
- Take advantage of the end of season nursery specials and consider planting trees, shrubs, and perennials early this month. Stop in the mill for root stimulating fertilizer to promote root growth.
- Dig summer-blooming bulbs after the first killing frost and save for next planting season. See this article for more information: www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/storing-tender-bulbs/index.html

Check out our 5th Annual Pepper Tasting Event held Saturday, September 13 from 9 AM – 1 PM. Try samples and choose your favorites for next season.

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

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