

# Timely Turf Tips

## November 2015



**Don't let Mother Nature fool you- colder weather is coming.** This warm fall has been fantastic for finishing fall chores. Above average temperatures has us thinking of needing to mow one more time before putting away the mower, not of the upcoming winter. The delightful temps will not last forever, so think about using this opportunity to check around the house for any opening that could allow mice to enter the home. Sealing entry points could stop unwelcome critters from getting inside. Remember to stop at the mill to see the full assortment of products stocked to help rid your home of these pests. Use the attached coupon for further savings.

### Lawn and Garden Care Tips for November:

- Try to keep mowing the grass until it stops growing; remembering to decrease the cutting height to 2 to 2 ½ inches for the last two or three mowing of the year. Multiple cuttings at the new lower height helps to condition the lawn to the new height reducing any stress that occurs from removing too much in one final cut. Longer grass can give meadow voles (a.k.a. field mice) food and protection, which can lead to turf damage next spring.
- Keep raking leaves or mulch them with the mower if not too thick on the lawn. The University of Minnesota Extension recommends that 80-90 % of the grass be visible after mulching leaves to prevent smothering the lawn over winter. This may require cutting the grass more often than normal to accomplish this goal.
- Water, water, water. Watering trees, shrubs, and perennial gardens until the ground freezes is important, especially for evergreens that will continue to lose moisture all winter due to transpiration. As a way to test if the ground is moist enough, try digging down 4-6" to check if the soil is wet after watering. Check again a day later and water again if the soil is dry.
- As soon as the ground freezes to a depth of ½ " or more, cover any tender or recently planted shrubs, roses, strawberries and perennials with at least 6" of clean fresh marsh hay. The goal is to let the plants get down to dormancy temperature just below freezing and then hold at a constant temperature until spring, thus minimizing thawing/freezing occurrences and severe cold temperatures that can damage plants.
- Remove any remaining plant material from your garden to thwart harmful insects and lessen disease. Dispose of any diseased foliage in the trash, not in the compost pile. Use a wire brush to remove soil from your garden tools and sanitize them with a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Consider tilling in leaves as a method to add helpful organic matter.
- Don't leave herbicides/pesticides in the garage over winter. Liquids must not freeze. Store them in a cool, dark and dry area. Secure all products from children and pets.



### Remember to clean your bird feeders

Feeders should be cleaned regularly (we would recommend at least four times a year) to prevent bacterial diseases that can sicken birds. Clean feeders well, and then soak in a sanitizing solution of 1 part chloride bleach to 9 parts water, allowing the solution to be on the feeder for 3-5 minutes. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and allow it to dry completely before refilling.

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

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