

# Timely Turf Tips

## September 2015

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Tomato Tasting Event results are in.** Each year the number of varieties displayed for tasting increases, and Steve provided 92 varieties for this year's event. In the full size tomato category, heirloom and non-heirloom varieties included, "Abe Lincoln" garnered first, with "Fantastic" second, and "Wisconsin 55" third. In the cherry tomato category, "Sun Sugar", a perennial favorite was the top vote getter. Another favorite, "Lemon Drop" was second, and "Rapunzel Cherry" was third. Thank you to all who came to the event and chose their favorites. Look for these varieties and many more next spring in the greenhouse at the mill.

### September tips:

- It is recommended that you lower the cutting height of the lawn mower now 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 mowings of the year. This decrease at the end of fall should aid in leaf removal and reduce the chance of snow mold next spring.
- Lawns can still 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.
- Get that fall application of fertilizer done if that important task still needs to be completed. 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.
- Now is the best 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.
- The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum notes that fall planting of trees and shrubs can be done now. The new plantings will still have time to develop new roots and be ready for spring. Remember to water right up to freeze and consider mulching the new plantings. Also mentioned is fall pruning of trees that bleed, like maples, birch, black walnut, honey locust and mountain ash.
- If you grew summer-blooming bulbs this year and want to keep them overwinter for next season, then dig them after the first killing frost. See this article for more information: [www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/storing-tender-bulbs/index.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/storing-tender-bulbs/index.html)



**Mark it down on your calendar- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pepper Tasting Event will be held Saturday, September 19 from 9 AM – 1 PM. Join us for a sampling of over 100 varieties of sweet and mildly hot peppers.**

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

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