

# Timely Turf Tips

## April 2016

**Wow, it sure feels like spring out there.** Many of our winged friends are beginning the long trek back to Minnesota. There is a website that tracks some of these journeys aptly titled, "Journey North: A Global Study of Wildlife Migration and Seasonal Change." Follow the spring migration of the American Robin, hummingbirds, or Monarch butterflies with observation reports and maps pinpointing sightings. A person can even register on this free site to report their own first sightings. Check it out at <https://www.learner.org/jnorth>. Get your children involved and have it be a family event.

### Yard and Garden Tips for spring

Begin the month by picking up sticks, litter, and pet waste that has accumulated over winter. Avoid hard raking on wet soils, which can damage soggy turf and compact the soil. Wait until mid-month after the soil firms up to give the lawn a good thorough cleanup.

Sweep leaves, sand, rocks, ice melt product or other debris off of any hard surfaces in order to prevent it from reaching the storm sewer.

You may not need to apply fertilizer in the spring. If the lawn is well-established, clippings were left on the turf, and a fall application was done, then spring fertilization may not be necessary. Consider a soil test for help in knowing the correct type and amount of product to use and when to apply it. See coupon below for savings. The following link explains how and where to collect your sample: <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/how-to-submit-samples/lawn-garden/>

If your yard had problems with crabgrass or other annual weeds, apply a pre-emergent herbicide when the soil temperature reaches 50 degrees. Be sure to watch your email for a notice from Steve when it is the right time to apply. Save now on your purchase with the coupon below.

Do not rush to remove mulch from plant beds. With fluctuating spring temperatures, that mulch could still provide some frost protection and early spring gardens are too wet for any foot traffic anyway. Use the crumble test to see if the garden is ready for any work. This is done by taking a handful of dirt, shaping it into a ball, and poking the ball to see if it crumbles into smaller pieces. If it doesn't break apart, then wait to begin to prevent soil compaction.

Start to plant cold season crops, like lettuce, beets, carrots, peas, spinach, and radish, around April 15.



**Baltimore Oriole**

### Get your fresh vegetables here!

Do you have a growing family with no extra time for growing your own produce or just don't have the space? Consider subscribing to a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Hugo Feed Mill will be a pickup location for Costa Farm and Greenhouse ([costafarm.com](http://costafarm.com)) and Niemczyk Gardens ([niemczykgardens.com](http://niemczykgardens.com)) again in 2016. They have share options for all family sizes. For more information on signup deadlines and pricing options, see the grower's websites.

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

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