

Timely Turf Tips

February 2017

Looking out the window at the backyard this month can seem a little bleak. How many more weeks until spring? Prognosticator Phil says six. Make the most of this time by planning for the spring. Check out the Minnesota State Horticultural Society website, *Northern Gardener*, as a source for resources, ideas, and inspiration. Look at their Events calendar, <https://northerngardener.org/calendar/calendar-of-events>, for upcoming learning opportunities through classes, workshops, and garden expos.

Planning, preparing and cleaning up

- Plan for next summer's flower and garden needs. If you start plants, assemble the equipment needed: pots, trays, fluorescent lights that can be adjusted for height, timer for lights, and a heating device to put under the containers of germinating seeds. For more information check out this article, *Starting Seeds Indoors*, www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/starting-seeds-indoors/
- Make sure your favorite pepper and tomato plants will be available this spring.
- Call 651-429-3361 today and talk to Steve or email him at steve@hugofeedmill.com.
- Prepare your trees for next summer with dormant pruning done late February and early March. The University of Minnesota Extension states, "The late dormant season is the best for most pruning." Pruning at this time of year has many benefits including easier ability to see problem branches when leaves are gone and less disease spreading concerns. It's best to start pruning trees when they are young to develop a strong leader and remove problematic branches before they become too large. For more information about pruning trees and shrubs see this link from the U of M Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/trees-shrubs/pruning-trees-shrubs>
- Clean your indoor plants with a warm water shower or dusting. They will benefit from the effort with a greater ability to gather sunlight. Support the leaves from underneath when wiping to prevent damage. Large plants can go right in the shower for a five minute lukewarm rinse. Water on hairy-leaf plants like African violets can cause spotting so dust them with a small paintbrush instead. No fertilizer until they are actively growing; wait until spring and summer for this step.
- Don't forget your furry friends on **Valentine's Day**. We have a coupon below to save you \$\$\$.



We have a new bookkeeper... Amy is new to the community having just moved from Rogers, MN. She enjoys horses and baling hay in her free time. She is very excited to be working here. Welcome Amy.

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

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