

Timely Turf Tips

April 2010

The arrival of spring is a long awaited pleasure, especially in Minnesota. Spring clean up of your yard can often be a lot of work, but it will pay off in the end with beautiful, healthier lawn and gardens!

Lawn Care:

- Lightly rake lawn to remove winter debris. Avoid heavy raking until ground is firm and dry. If the ground is too wet, you risk tearing the grass out by the roots.
- Sweep leaves, sand, rocks or pet waste off of hard surfaces to prevent them from reaching storm sewers.
- You may not need to apply fertilizer in the spring. That is dependent on the condition of your yard. If you have a well-established lawn and especially if you use a mulching mower and fertilized in the fall, spring fertilization may not be necessary. If you have poor soil and feel like you should fertilize wait until after the lawn has begun to grow later this spring.
- If you know you have a problem with annual weeds and crabgrass, apply a pre-emergent herbicide when the soil temperature reaches 50 degrees. Be sure to watch your email for a notice from HUGO FEED MILL & HARDWARE when it's the right time to apply!
- De-thatching and plug aerating are not advised until you've mown 2 or 3 times—(This is best done in the Fall)

This and That:

- Plant cold crops (lettuce, beets, carrots, peas, spinach, radish) starting April 15th.
- Prune apple trees early this month and spray dormant oil to control insects before growth begins.
- Start Zinnias, Marigolds, Calendula and Gaillardias (Blanket Flowers) indoors early this month.
- Remove winter mulch on strawberries and roses.
- Prune arborvitae and yews before new growth begins.
- Baltimore Orioles return late this month. Attracting Orioles: <http://tinyurl.com/2nlx7h>

Product Spotlight: University of Minnesota Soil Test:

Save money and help the environment! Soil testing every two years provides homeowners with the vital information needed to maintain a healthy lawn or garden. Save money by avoiding over application of costly fertilizer. Save the environment by reducing polluted runoff. Bring in a soil sample and square footage of your lawn or garden and we'll take it from there! We will bring your sample to the U of M for testing, review your results and recommend what kind and how much fertilizer you need! More info: <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu>
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