

Timely Turf Tips

May 2010

Throw open the windows and let that fresh air revive you and your home! It's time to get everyone outside, including some of your houseplants. Start hardening off houseplants you plan on moving outdoors. Hardening off allows the plants to gradually adapt to the outdoor environment. I keep my houseplants in a shady spot all summer. The slight increase in light and humidity still revive the plants, but the change is less drastic. Wait until the temperatures stay above 50°-55°F or be ready to bring plants in on cold nights.

Lawn Care:

- Prevent crabgrass and other annual weeds by applying a pre-emergence herbicide to your lawn before mid-month. **Be sure to watch your email for a notice from HUGO FEED MILL & HARDWARE when it's the right time to apply!** Water it into the soil soon after you spread it. Try a corn gluten meal product if you prefer organic to chemical weed control.
- No crabgrass to treat? Fertilize your lawn at the end of May with our own 25-0-15 fertilizer!
- Raise your mower blades to 3" or more and cut no more than 1/3 of the height of the lawn. This will reduce stress and inhibit weed growth.
- Spray Weed Free Zone or Speedzone on creeping charlie, clover, dandelions and thistle now! Added bonus: both products become rainfast within 4 hrs. and allow for reseeding within 2 weeks of application.

Garden Tips:

- Dig out any tulips or other spring bulbs that failed to bloom well; they're not likely to grow stronger.
- Wait to prune shrubs such as forsythias, azaleas and lilacs until just after they're through blooming.
- Plant parsley, head lettuce, cauliflower, early cabbage, kale and onion plants in the garden now.
- Start muskmelons, pumpkins, and winter squash indoors early this month.
- Pinch back Shasta Daisy, Beebalm, Garden Phlox and Obedient Plants to control height and bloom.
- Hummingbirds are making their way north and should be in the Twin Cities early this month. Mix 1 part sugar to 4 parts water; bring to boil; cool and fill feeder. <http://tinyurl.com/2cx5as7>

Product Spotlight: WaterStor™

Cuts Watering by 50%! WaterStor™ is a thin sheet that will reduce the watering needs of your plant. The active ingredient absorbs up to 400 times its weight in water. It has built-in time-release micromesh that gradually releases water back into the soil and keeps the root system hydrated for longer. Conserve water and save money, while promoting plant growth and health. That's better for you and for the environment.

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