

Timely Turf Tips

August 2012

Anyway, like I was sayin', zucchini is the fruit of the Mid-West. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, sauté it, steamed it, grill it and stuff it. There's uh, zucchini-kabobs, zucchini creole, zucchini gumbo. Pan fried, deep fried, stir-fried. There's zucchini bread, zucchini cake, zucchini casserole, zucchini chips, zucchini soup, zucchini stew, zucchini salad, zucchini and potatoes, zucchini fries, zucchini spaghetti, zucchini quesadillas, zucchini burger, zucchini sandwich, zucchini pizza. That- that's about it.

- The humble zucchini. It's an amazing little plant. Easy to grow, hardy, prolific, and tasty. A single plant will provide you with more fruit than you can stand for most of the growing season. You have to make sure to harvest every single day, though. Or else..... I'm usually very careful to get every zucchini off the plant, but occasionally I miss one. Last year I found a monster hiding under a leaf. What does one do with such a monstrosity? Naturally, you take pictures.
- Harvest all fruits and vegetables as they ripen: pick up any that "got away from you." Overripe produce attracts more wasps and picnic beetles to your garden. Daily picking also keep vegetables more productive. Donate extra garden produce to local food shelves. They really appreciate it!
- **Hugo Good Neighbors Food Shelf**; 5524 Upper 146th Street 651-528-6224 drop off between 4-7pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
White Bear Lake Food Shelf; 1884 Whitaker Street 651-407-5310 drop off between 9-noon.
Mahtomedi Food Shelf; 700 Mahtomedi Ave (located in St. Jude) 651-395-5350 drop off between 8:30-4:30 Monday through Thursday
- Make an effort to continue pulling weeds before they drop seeds to the soil for next year.
- It's already been a long season for our lawns. The second half of August is a great time to begin planting grass seed or fertilizing – unless weather is very hot and dry. If it is hot and dry, wait until temperatures moderate. Be sure to finish by mid-September so seedlings develop strong enough roots to carry them through winter. Broadleaf herbicides can be applied end of August through September.



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