

# Timely Turf Tips

## April 2013

**April** is a big month of great changes...especially this year!! It is hard to imagine now, but by month's end it will be time to uncover the gardens, sow cold tolerant vegetable seeds, and rake up all of those oak leaves that have been hanging in there all winter. If you have spring bulbs to look forward to, remember to spray them with an animal repellent as soon as they start emerging to protect from rabbits, squirrels, and deer looking for a spring treat. See coupon below.



With all of this snow on the ground it is important to wait until the ground is dry and firm before walking on the gardens and turf. You may not realize it, but trees and shrubs are damaged by compaction. Trees draw their moisture only from the fine new mats of roots which lie just below the surface.

Slow release fertilizers can be worked into the soil around perennials and shrubs as soon as the soil is warm enough to work and the plants show signs of growth. Give your plants the best possible start by learning your specific fertilizer and nutrient requirements. Bring your soil samples into the Mill so we can send them to the U of M for a soil analysis. The following link explains how and where to collect your sample:

<http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/how-to-submit-samples/lawn-garden/>

Birdfeeders are very active right now so start watching for hungry migrating birds. Just in the last week there have been significant changes to the plumage of the male goldfinches. If you've never tried dried mealworms now is the time to start. A large variety of birds are eager for a new protein source when they are migrating and nesting. Check out our coupon below.

It is still okay to prune fruit trees, but avoid any cuts to oak trees after April 1st. Storm damage should be painted with any household paint as soon as possible. The wounds give off a sweet scent that attracts the fungus carrying beetles that spread oak wilt. Maple and Birch trees that are pruned this month will bleed a lot of clear sap. This is not harmful to the health of the tree but can go on for weeks before the cuts seal up. Please check out the following link for useful pruning help from the U of M:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG0628.html>

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

**25% Off**  
**Dried Mealworms**  
Maximum coupon value \$5

1 coupon per customer. Expires 4/30/13

**Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware**

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**25% Off**  
**Animal Repellent Products**  
Maximum Coupon Value \$5

1 coupon per customer. Expires 4/30/13

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