

Timely Turf Tips

October 2013

Last month, Timely Turf Tips wrote about the drought conditions that have been affecting our lawns and gardens. We were hoping that some much needed rain would fall. While some lawns have begun to show signs of green growth because of the recent rainfall, it may be too little too late for some patches of lawn. These areas are great candidates for some dormant seeding starting mid- October. Steve mentions dormant seeding now because lawns that did not receive enough water over the last two months may not recover adequately before winter. Watch how your lawn recovers this month and check out this U of M Extension link, <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/efans/ygnews/2009/11/dormant-seed-now-to-promote-th.html>, if you want to try to fill in a thin lawn. See Steve at the mill for recommendations on seed and fertilizer.

Pepper and Tomato Tasting Event last month was great fun.

Thank you to all who were able to attend. Each year it just gets bigger and bigger. This year there were 60 varieties of tomatoes and over 100 varieties of peppers. The top vote getter for tomatoes was *Sun Sugar*, with two heirloom varieties, *Nelson's Polish* and *Aunt Ruby's German* placing second and third. In the pepper category, the number one spot was taken by *Apple Pepper*. *Szegedi Paprika* and *Red Marconi* followed as second and third vote getters. If you are interested in growing any of these tomatoes and peppers or any of your own favorites, then give Steve (aka Dr. Pepper) a call at the mill (651-429-3361) or email him at steve@hugofeedmill.com and he will see to it that they'll be available next spring.



Yard and Garden Tips for October:

Following the most recent U of M recommendations, a late season application of nitrogen fertilizer should be put down before October 15. Check out this link for more information about late fall fertilizing: <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/efans/ygnews/2012/10/rethinking-late-fall-nitrogen.html>. Please contact Steve if you have any questions regarding these new recommendations.

- Apply your fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. We recommend Hugo Feed Mill brand 25-0-15 (see coupon below.)
- Continue to cut your grass as needed. Lower mowing height to 2-2.5 inches. This will help in reducing possible winter lawn damage from snow mold and voles.

As temperatures cool, Box Elder Bugs and Asian Beetles may cluster on the warm, sunny sides of buildings. Spraying them outdoors will reduce the number that come inside through cracks and become a nuisance indoors.

September was dry; lawns and gardens will benefit from additional watering before winter arrives. Keep watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.

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

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