

Timely Turf Tips

March 2015

**Grand Opening
Saturday, April 11**

It's official; we have moved. It may only be across the parking lot, but it's a big change for the mill. Stop in and check out the new store. While you are there, consider shopping for some seed starting supplies. Getting your hands dirty with potting medium is a great way to beat the winter blues and get a start in planning the upcoming gardening season.

Seed Starting Basics

Soil: Use a sterilized soil or potting medium to reduce soil pathogens. Check the seed packet to know the planting depth. Stop by the mill to pick up a bag of sterilized soil. See the coupon below to save on the purchase.

Light: Young seedlings will need about 14 hours of direct light a day. This may be the biggest challenge in starting seeds indoors. The sun will move past even the brightest window in a home, causing the seedlings to stretch towards the light and become leggy. Fluorescent lights work well because they emit very little heat and will not dry out the plants. Using a light timer set at 14 hours automates the task of controlling hours of light.

Water: Water enough to keep the potting mixture moist. Consider using a spray bottle to mist the soil or use a plastic dome or plastic wrap to keep the moisture in. Upon germination, loosen the plastic wrap (domes can be kept in place) and move into bright light.

Hardening Off: Once the seedlings have grown, they will be ready to move outdoors when the temperatures warm. It's very important to get the seedlings used to being outside by hardening off. To do this, simply set the plants outside, out of direct sunlight for about an hour on a calm day. Increase this amount of time every day until the plants have stayed out all day. After about 10-14 days, the plants will be ready to go in the ground after the threat of frost has passed.

When to Start: To get more detailed information about starting seeds, the University of Minnesota Extension has this helpful link: www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/starting-seeds-indoors/.

March Reminders

- Clean wood duck and bluebird houses now. The mill has cedar shavings for wood duck house nesting material.
- Make sure your favorite pepper and tomato plants will be available this spring. Call Steve today or contact him by email at steve@hugofeedmill.com to order your favorite varieties.
- If you are looking for some local horticultural events to gather new ideas or a class to increase your knowledge on a subject, check out the Minnesota State Horticultural Society homepage at www.northerngardener.org. Click on *Classes and Events* to see classes and tours available this spring and summer. For local events by master gardeners, clubs, and other horticultural societies, see the calendar of events at www.northerngardener.org/calendar/calendar-of-events.

Do you have a growing family with no extra time for growing your own produce or just don't have the space? Consider subscribing to a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Hugo Feed Mill will be a pickup location for Costa Farm and Greenhouse (costafarm.com) and Niemczyk Gardens (niemczykgardens.com) in 2015. They have share options for all family sizes. For more information on signup deadlines and pricing options, see the grower's websites.

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



25% off
All in stock Livingston Seeds

1 coupon per customer
Expires 3/31/15

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware

5582 146th St. N. Hugo, MN 55038 651-429-3361

\$5 off Seed Starting Supplies
with purchase of \$20 or more

1 coupon per customer
Expires 3/31/15

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware

5582 146th St. N. Hugo, MN 55038 651-429-3361