

# Timely Turf Tips

## September 2016

**Tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes.** Wow, when there are 120 varieties to choose from, how do you pick a favorite? That was the challenge tasters faced at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Tomato Tasting Event held last weekend. Here are the top 5 winners in the full size tomato category (heirloom and non-heirloom varieties included), “Arbuznyi”, “Millionaire”, “Abe Lincoln”, “Amish Paste”, and “Sioux”. In the cherry tomato category, the top 5 were “Sun Sugar”, “Lemon Drop”, “Ground Cherry”, “Piennolo del Vesuvio”, and “Chocolate Cherry”. Thank you to all who came to the event and chose their favorites. Look for these varieties and many more next spring in the greenhouse at the mill.

**Upcoming Event-** Would you like the chance to tour Steve’s private garden? Steve and the Hugo Feed Mill is hosting an event titled, “Peppers Galore!”. This event will be held Thursday, September 8, 2016 from 6-7:30 PM at the Hugo Feed Mill. No need to make a reservation, just show up and see the spectacular variety of peppers!

### September Lawn and Garden Tips

- Now that rain and cooler temperatures have arrived, it is recommended that you lower the cutting height of the lawnmower and keep the grass 2 ½ to 3 inches tall with regular mowing. The University of Minnesota Extension suggests this height for fall, with a gradual decrease to 2 to 2 ½ inches over the last two to three mowing for the year. This decrease at the end of fall should aid in leaf removal and reduce the chance of snow mold next spring.
- There is still time to apply a fall application of fertilizer if you have not done that very important lawn care task. Whether you apply one, two, or three applications per year, all of the U of M Extension’s MN home lawn fertility programs recommend a fall application around Labor Day. Apply your fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. We recommend Hugo Feed Mill’s brand 25-0-15, with 50% slow-release nitrogen for a longer feeding period. A 40# bag covers 10,000 square feet and there is a coupon attached below.
- Now is the best time to apply broadleaf weed control products like SpeedZone and Weed Free Zone for dandelion, creeping Charlie, and clover control. Fall growing conditions allow the product to be taken up by the entire plant effectively dispersing the herbicide all through the plant, resulting in fewer pesky weeds next spring.
- Thin patches in the lawn can be reseeded through September 20. Fall weather conditions of longer, cooler nights and more expected rainfall give grass seedlings a better start toward becoming established. Come see us at the mill for advice and seed.
- Remove any diseased plant material from the flower/ vegetable garden and dispose it in the trash, not the compost bin. Overripe produce should also be removed to discourage insects and other unwanted guests.
- Shop for spring flowering bulbs. Planting time is mid-September through mid-October. Bone meal is available at the mill.



**Jumbo Stuffed Hybrid Sweet**

**Mark it down on your calendar- Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pepper Tasting Event will be held Saturday, September 17 from 9 AM – 1 PM. Join us for a sampling of over 150 varieties of sweet and mildly hot peppers.**

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

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