

# Timely Turf Tips

## October 2016

Last month's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Pepper Tasting Event results are in. With the number of varieties continuing to grow to a whopping 195 varieties this year, choosing the top five per category (sweet, mild, and hot) posed a challenge. In the sweet pepper category, *Artis* was the top vote getter, followed by *Ancient Sweet*, *Blushing Beauty*, and tied at fourth were *Red Beauty* and *Yummy Mix*. *Chocolate Cherry* topped the mild category, with *Holy Mole*, *Beaver Dam*, *Malawi Piquante*, and tied for 5<sup>th</sup>, *Bacsikai Feher* and *Farmer's Jalapeno* following in order. For the hot varieties, *Garden Salsa* was the most popular, followed by *Mulato Island*, *Tiberon Poblano*, *Santa Fe Grande*, and tied for 5<sup>th</sup>, *Chimayo Hot*, *Fresno Chili* and *Orchid*. Steve would like to thank all the people that helped in judging. We hope to see you next spring shopping for your favorites.

### Lawn and Garden Tips for October

- Keep mowing the grass at 2 ½ to 3 inches tall, gradually decreasing to 2 to 2 ½ inches over the last two or three mowing of the year. This decrease at the end of fall should aid in leaf removal and reduce the chance of snow mold next spring.
- Apply fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. The University of Minnesota Extension recommends all fertilizer be applied before October 15. 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.
- Consider mulching light accumulations of leaves with the lawnmower. Just be sure the grass is visible through the shredded material when finished. Heavier buildups of leaves need to be removed to prevent damage to the lawn over the winter. Excess leaves can be bagged and set aside to be used to protect tender perennial beds. Remember to wait and apply the bags after the ground is frozen.
- Falling temperatures can trigger a change in plant growth that aids in controlling tough-to-kill broadleaf weeds, like creeping Charlie, dandelion, and clover. Spot treat weeds with broadleaf weed control products like SpeedZone and Weed Free Zone for weed-free grass next spring.
- Falling temperatures will also cause Box Elder Bugs to cluster on the warm, sunny sides of buildings. Spraying them outdoors will reduce the number that find their way inside and become a nuisance. Save by using the discount coupon attached below.
- Shop for spring flowering bulbs. Planting time is mid-September through mid-October so there is still time to plant. Bone meal is available at the mill.



### Plant your garlic by mid-October.

See the folks at the feed mill for your seed garlic. Choose from five varieties or plant them all to find out your favorite. They can help with planting directions, fertilizer, and mulch. You can also get information from the U of M Extension link [www.extension.umn.edu/garden/fruit-vegetable/growing-garlic-in-minnesota/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/fruit-vegetable/growing-garlic-in-minnesota/).

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

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