

# Timely Turf Tips

## October 2019

**With the arrival of fall, time to get the lawn or garden ready for winter.** Recent rains have been plentiful but remember to continue watering throughout fall. This is especially important for recently planted trees or shrubs that will benefit from watering right up to ground freeze up. Remember to bring in any tropical plants set out for the summer before the frost.

### October tips for the lawn and garden:

- 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.
- Mulch light accumulations of leaves with the lawnmower, being sure the grass is visible through the shredded material. 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. Just remember to wait and apply the bags after the ground is frozen.
- 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.
- 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 early this month with broadleaf weed control products like SpeedZone and Weed Free Zone for weed-free grass next spring.
- If you want some early color in the garden, plant spring-flowering bulbs, like tulips and daffodils, early this month before the weather turns too cold for this project. Bone meal is available at the mill.
- When cleaning up the garden, dispose of any diseased plant material, overripe fruit and vegetables in the trash, not the compost bin. Removal of this material should help decrease disease and overwintering insects.
- Consider leaving some sturdy, disease-free plants to add some interest to the landscape this winter. The garden will benefit from any trapped snow and the birds will enjoy any remaining seeds.
- 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.
- With the temperatures falling the mice are trying to find a warm place for the winter. Be prepared by using the attached coupon below.



### Plant your garlic by mid-October.

Normally, the mill could provide seed garlic, but this year we won't be selling any seed garlic because of a poor garlic harvest. We still are able to help with planting directions, fertilizer, and mulch, so stop in to see us.

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