

# Timely Turf Tips

## May 2019

**May is the start of the growing season.** Time to finish the maintenance if April didn't allow it. Remove the winter mulch from perennials, divide any over crowded ones to stimulate growth and bloom, and finish any spring cleanup projects in the yard. When mowing this month, remember that the University of Minnesota Extension states that the best root growth occurs in the spring. Keeping the mower height at 3" will allow healthier roots to develop compared to shorter mowing. Healthier roots will provide the grass a better capacity to withstand summer heat and drought.

### Lawn, Tree & Shrub Care

- If your yard had problems with crabgrass or other annual weeds, apply a pre-emergent herbicide when the soil temperature reaches 50 degrees. Be sure to watch your email for a notice from Steve when it is the right time to apply. The mill has 50# bags of Crabgrass Preventer available. Try a corn gluten meal product if you prefer an organic option of control. A 50# bag with 9-10% nitrogen will cover 2500 sq. ft. Both products need to be watered with ¼ - ½" of water shortly after applying for best effectiveness.
- Fertilize your lawn with an application of 25-0-15 fertilizer, with 50% slow-release nitrogen, sometime between the end of May and mid-June. Save by using the coupon below.
- May is Arbor month in Minnesota and a great time to think about fertilizing trees and shrubs. The plants will benefit the most if fertilizer is incorporated into the soil in early May before the main growth spurt occurs. If the soil is sandy, consider splitting the amount between two applications - one now and another one sometime during May 15 - May 31.



### Garden Care:

- Add any soil amendments (compost and aged manure is best added 2-3 weeks before planting) and/or fertilizer recommended by your soil test results to your garden. Remember the crumble test from last month's tips; if the garden soil doesn't break apart with slight pressure after forming a ball, then wait to begin in order to prevent soil compaction.
- **Spring care for garlic.** Uncover garlic and when new leaves begin to grow, fertilize the bulbs with a high nitrogen fertilizer that releases the nutrients slowly over the growing season. Steve recommends Grower's Special 12-6-6 with time-release fertilizer, available at the mill. Work 1-2 teaspoons into the soil around each plant and mulch again. Remove any developing flower stalks to encourage bulb growth.
- Remember to thin those early seeded crops like radishes, leaf lettuce and spinach to allow the young plants room to grow
- Tomatoes and peppers need to be planted late May or early June. They like warm soils for a good start.

### Greenhouse up for Mother's Day!

The greenhouse is up and will be operating starting Friday, May 4. Check out the assortment of flowers and hanging baskets for Mom or get a jump on decorating your own garden. Expect the peppers and tomato plants to arrive mid-month. Steve will be sending out an email when they arrive. He expects 600+ varieties of peppers and tomatoes.

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

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