

Timely Turf Tips

November 2019

Lately, the cold weather makes one want to stay inside where it's warm. This is also what mice are planning with the colder temperatures. Now is the time to check the outside of the house for any openings that allow these unwanted guests an entrance point. Seal any pencil-sized or larger opening to prevent mice from entering the home. Consider using traps or bait to control them before they cause damage if they find a way inside. Stop by the mill to see our full assortment of products and use the coupon below to save some cash.

Lawn and Garden Tips for November

- Try to keep mowing the grass until it stops growing; remembering to decrease the cutting height to 2 to 2 ½ inches for the last two or three mowing of the year. Multiple cuttings at the new lower height helps to condition the lawn to the new height reducing any stress that occurs from removing too much in one final cut. Longer grass can give meadow voles (a.k.a. field mice) food and protection, which can lead to turf damage next spring.
- Keep raking leaves or mulch them with the mower if not too thick on the lawn. The University of Minnesota Extension recommends that 80-90 % of the grass be visible after mulching leaves to prevent smothering the lawn over winter. This may require cutting the grass more often than normal to accomplish this goal.
- Keep watering trees, shrubs, and perennial gardens until the ground freezes. This is especially important for evergreens that will continue to lose moisture all winter due to transpiration. As a way to test if the ground is moist enough, try digging down 4-6" to check if the soil is wet after watering. Check again a day later and water again if the soil is dry.
- Remove any remaining plant material from your garden to thwart harmful insects and lessen disease. Dispose of any diseased foliage in the trash, not in the compost pile. Use a wire brush to remove soil from your garden tools and sanitize them with a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Consider tilling in leaves as a method to add helpful organic matter.
- As soon as the ground freezes to a depth of ½ " or more, cover any tender or recently planted shrubs, roses, strawberries and perennials with at least 6" of clean fresh marsh hay. The goal is to let the plants get down to dormancy temperature just below freezing and then hold at a constant temperature until spring, thus minimizing thawing/freezing occurrences and severe cold temperatures that can damage plants.
- To prevent breakage from freezing, empty and store ceramic and clay pots. Use old potting soil as a top dressing for your perennials. Wash pots with the sanitizing solution mentioned earlier. Disconnect, drain and store hoses after the last watering and drain any rain barrels.



Remember to clean your bird feeders

Feeders should be cleaned regularly (we would recommend at least four times a year) to prevent bacterial diseases that can sicken birds. Clean feeders well, and then soak in a sanitizing solution of 1 part chloride bleach to 9 parts water, allowing the solution to be on the feeder for 3-5 minutes. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and allow it to dry

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