

# Timely Turf Tips

## February 2020

**Preparation** is important for success with a garden or landscape. February is a month that allows a gardener to take some time to lay the groundwork for attaining the best from a garden or yard. Settle into a favorite chair with a good garden book, look through those seed catalogs for new plant ideas to grow, and search the internet for events that could expand your knowledge. The Minnesota State Horticultural Society publishes the website Northern Gardener; as a source for resources, ideas, and inspiration. Check out Events at <http://northerngardener.org/mshs-events/> for upcoming classes, events, shows and tours.

### Planning, preparing and cleaning up

Plan for next summer's flower and garden needs. If you start plants, assemble the equipment needed: pots, trays, fluorescent lights that can be adjusted for height, timer for lights, and a heating device to put under the containers of germinating seeds. For more information check out this article, Starting Seeds Indoors, at <https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/starting-seeds-indoors>

Make sure your favorite pepper and tomato plants will be available this spring. Call 651-429-3361 today and talk to Steve or email him at [steve@hugofeedmill.com](mailto:steve@hugofeedmill.com).

Prepare your trees for next summer with dormant pruning done late February and early March. The University of Minnesota Extension states, "The late dormant season is the best for most pruning." Pruning at this time of year has many benefits including easier ability to see problem branches when leaves are gone and less disease spreading concerns. It's best to start pruning trees when they are young to develop a strong leader and remove problematic branches before they become too large. For more information about pruning trees and shrubs see this link from the U of M Extension: <https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/pruning-trees-and-shrubs>

Clean your indoor plants with a warm water shower or dusting. They will benefit from the effort with a greater ability to gather sunlight. Support the leaves from underneath when wiping to prevent damage. Large plants can go right in the shower for a five minute lukewarm rinse. Water on hairy-leaf plants like African violets can cause spotting so dust them with a small paintbrush instead. No fertilizer until they are actively growing; wait until spring and summer for this step.



Winter months are difficult for birds. Remember to keep your feeders clean and full of high energy food. Use the coupons below for savings on feeders.

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