

Timely Turf

Tips

June 2020

Spring rains last month and some heat lately has plants growing well. For a wide variety of tips on growing gardens and lawns, check out “Planting and growing guides” at the University of Minnesota Extension website, extension.umn.edu/how/planting-and-growing-guides. There are links to “Upper Minnesota home gardening calendar” and “Minnesota lawn care calendar” to help schedule tasks for caring for gardens and lawns all season long. There's even information on care for houseplants, which will be experiencing new growth due to the increasing day length.

June lawn and garden tips

- If your spring flowering shrubs like lilacs, forsythias or bridal wreath spirea, have become overgrown, prune them right after bloom is done in order to prevent removing the next season flower buds.
- Remember to fertilize your lawn with an application of 25-0-15 fertilizer, now improved with 50% slow-release nitrogen, before mid-June if you have not applied any fertilizer this spring.
- Spray Weed Free Zone or Speedzone on creeping Charlie, clover, dandelions, and thistle now before temperatures increase. Both products become rain-fast in 4 hours and allow reseeding within 2 weeks of application.
- Later this month, consider raising the mowing height on the lawnmower to 2.5” or more as temperatures rise to promote deeper rooting, which should help the lawn become more resistant to stress.
- Remove young weeds now when they are easy to pull. Consider using organic mulch later in the month after soil temps have increased to keep weeds out and help retain moisture.
- All tomato and pepper plants can be planted now. If tomato plants are leggy, just plant them deeper to encourage rooting along the stem. Remember to stake or cage tomatoes after planting before they become too large. Check out the coupon below for a free pepper plant from Steve.
- Stop in for netting to protect your strawberries from the birds. Remember to fertilize June-bearing strawberries after harvest with a balanced fertilizer like 10-10-10.
- For a good fall bloom, prune back garden chrysanthemums one final time near the end of the month. Consider fertilizing roses later this month, after the first wave of blossoms, with a complete low nitrogen fertilizer (1 T per plant.)



Providing a nectar feeder for hummingbirds or orioles? Change the nectar more often as the temperature increases. If temp is over 80°, clean and refill every 3-4 days. Cloudiness means spoilage; flush the feeder with hot water from the faucet. Stay away from soap if possible. Consider using a bottle brush. Disinfect monthly with a solution of ¼ cup bleach to 1 gal of water. Soak feeder in bleach solution 1 hour, clean with brush, and rinse with tap water and fill with new sugar solution.

Previous issues of Timely Turf Tips newsletters are available at our website: www.hugofeedmill.com

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