

# Timely Turf

# Tips

## December 2020



**The snow and cold will come.** Use this warm spell to finish those fall chores. Wrap young trees that may be damaged by sunscald. Use the following days as a reminder- on at Thanksgiving and off at Easter. Evergreens that have shown browning caused by winter moisture loss can benefit by screening them with burlap on the south/west facing side. Also, water them thoroughly before the ground freezes. These simple steps can pay dividends for years to come with healthier trees. Stop at the mill for these supplies.

### Bird Feeding Tips

Winter brings short days and long chilly nights, and snow that can cover normal food supplies, so providing a supplemental source of food can benefit bird survival. Think about using a higher percentage of high calorie and high fat foods to provide the energy needed for winter survival. Nutritious winter foods include:

**Black oil sunflower seeds-** a favorite of many birds, including cardinals, chickadees, finches, nuthatches, titmice, and woodpeckers.

**Safflower seeds-** a good choice for cardinals, chickadees, grosbeaks, and titmice. Ask about golden safflower, which has a higher oil content, fat content, and protein level than white safflower along with a thinner outer shell for easier cracking.

**Suet-** Birds love suet. A rendered animal fat, suet provides concentrated energy to help birds make it through freezing winter days and nights. Woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches will devour suet.

**Peanuts-** a nutritious food for birds, high in fat and protein. They are well-liked by cardinals, chickadees, woodpeckers, and titmice.

**Nyjer seed-** a small, black seed containing a high calorie and oil content that is desired by goldfinches, redpolls, and pine siskins.



### More Winter Bird Feeding Tips

- Clean off feeders, platforms and perches after each storm so seed is easily accessible.
- Add a heated birdbath to the backyard or place a safe heating element in a regular birdbath to provide birds with liquid water.
- Stamp or shovel snow around the feeders to provide easier access to spilled seed for ground feeding birds.
- Do you remember the solution used to sanitize your garden tools? This same mixture of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water can be used to sanitize your bird feeders, so find a pair of rubber gloves and an old toothbrush and scrub away. Rinse with clean water to remove any cleaning solution residue. Be sure the feeder is completely dry before filling. It's recommended that feeders be cleaned at least once per month. More often if the feeder is popular.

### Holiday Gift Ideas at the Mill

- For the family: Bird feeders, birdbath heaters and decorative outdoor thermometers.
- For the kids that are starting to drive: emergency tow strap, jumper cables, windshield scraper, and hand warmers.
- For the older kids in dorms, first apartment or house: tool box filled with hand tools. Tape measure stocking stuffer.
- For the family pets: rawhide chews, biscuits, and toys for dogs and cats. Save by using the coupon below.

**Happy Holidays from all of us here at Hugo Feed Mill.** We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve you with your lawn, garden, feed, and hardware needs throughout the new year.

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

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