

Timely Turf Tips

May 2016

April started warm but soon turned cold. Now, it sure feels like spring. Last month mentioned a website, “Journey North: A Global Study of Wildlife Migration and Seasonal Change”, as a way to involve the kids with reporting observations of spring migration. According to recent observations, Baltimore Orioles are now in Minnesota and hummingbirds will be arriving soon. Provide a welcoming homecoming by stopping in the store and picking up feeders and nectar for both of these new residents.

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. Try a corn gluten meal product if you prefer an organic control option. A 50 lb. bag with 9-10% nitrogen will cover 2,500 sq. ft. Both products need to be watered with ¼ - ½ inches of water shortly after applying for best effectiveness.
- When mowing this month, remember that the University of Minnesota Extension states in their *Early May Lawn Care Tips* that the best root growth occurs in the spring. Keeping the mower height at 2 ½ inches 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.
- Fertilize your lawn with an application of 25-0-15 fertilizer, now improved with 50% slow-release nitrogen, sometime between the end of May and mid-June. Save by using the coupon below.
- May is Arbor month 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 - if the garden soil doesn't break apart with slight pressure after forming a ball, then wait to begin tilling in order to prevent soil compaction.
- Remember to thin early seeded crops like radishes, leaf lettuce and spinach to allow the young plants room to grow.

Greenhouse up for Mother's Day!

Steve says that the greenhouse will be up and operating starting Thursday, May 5. 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 by Friday, May 13. Steve expects 500+ varieties of peppers and tomatoes. Do you remember your favorites from last fall's pepper and tomato tasting events?

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