

Timely Turf Tips

November 2017

Winter is coming, is your yard and garden ready? This is the time to finish those fall chores. Check out this month's tips to see if some tasks still need to be completed. Miss out on seeding your lawn? Check out the U of MN Extension site, <http://turf.umn.edu/news/there's-still-time-dormant-seed-your-lawn>, for information on seeding in November.

Lawn and Garden Tips for November

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Remember to disconnect, drain and store hoses after the last watering and drain any rain barrels
- 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.
- Don't leave herbicides/pesticides in the garage over winter. Liquids must not freeze. Store them in a cool, dark and dry area. Secure all products from children and pets.
- Seal any openings on the exterior of your home to prevent mice from entering. Consider using traps or bait to control them before they cause damage if they find a way inside.



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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