

Timely Turf Tips April 2020



Is your lawn a bee-friendly lawn? The University of Minnesota Bee Lab has current research-based recommendations for homeowners that are interested in a more bee-friendly turf. Go to www.beelab.umn.edu/learn-more/beelawn to find out more about how flowering lawns or bee lawns can benefit pollinators and improve areas where it's difficult to grow grass. The links to "Flowering Bee Lawns A Toolkit For Land Managers", and "Bee Lawn Brochure" cover an overview of bee lawns, and how to establish and maintain a lawn. The link to the "Board of Water and Soil Resources Lawns to Legumes program" provides more information including a grant that is available for individual homeowners interested in starting a bee lawn this fall. Hurry though, the application deadline is June 2. Read more about this program in a Mother Nature Network article at mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/minnesota-will-pay-homeowners-make-their-lawns-bee-friendly.

Yard and Garden Tips

Begin the month by picking up sticks, litter, and pet waste that has accumulated over winter. Avoid hard raking on wet soils, which can damage soggy turf and compact the soil. Wait until mid-month after the soil firms up to give the lawn a good thorough cleanup.

Do not rush to remove last year's plant residue. With fluctuating spring temperatures, that residue provides some frost protection and early spring gardens are too wet for any foot traffic anyway. Use the crumble test to see if the garden is ready for any work. This is done by taking a handful of dirt, shaping it into a ball, and poking the ball to see if it crumbles into smaller pieces. If it doesn't break apart, then wait to begin in order to prevent soil compaction.

You may not need to apply fertilizer in the spring. If the lawn is well-established, clippings were left on the turf, and a fall application was done, then spring fertilization may not be necessary. Consider a soil test for help in knowing the correct type and amount of product to use and when to apply it. To download a form, go to <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu/> and click on the Lawn & Garden link. Please contact the mill if you have any questions about sampling your yard or garden.

If your yard had problems with crabgrass or other annual weeds, apply a pre-emergent herbicide when the soil temperature reaches 50 degrees. Be sure to watch your email for a notice from Steve when it is the right time to apply. Save now on your purchase with the coupon below.

Start to plant cold season crops (like lettuce, beets, carrots, peas, spinach, and radish) mid to late April depending on the weather.

Trim back any perennials that were left for winter interest or to provide food for birds before the new growth



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