

Timely Turf

Tips

January 2021



Happy New Year! January can seem like a month with nothing to do relating to the lawn and garden, but seed catalogs should be arriving soon and now is the time to start planning for spring. Use this time to review notes from last season regarding what worked and what needs to be changed. Check out the local library for a resource of horticultural magazines and gardening books. Start developing a plan now to help lead decisions next spring.

Cold Weather Tips for Bird Feeding

- When trying to attract birds, fresh water can be as important as food for winter bird feeding. Consider adding a heated birdbath to give birds an open source of water during the coldest of months.
- Be sure to keep bird feeders full of high calorie and high fat foods to provide the needed energy for winter survival. Use the coupons below for a *Wildlife Science* Suet Plus cake or to save on other *Wildlife Science* products.
- Stamp or shovel snow around the feeders to provide easier access to spilled seed for ground feeding birds.
- Winter survival can cause birds to gather together in larger flocks and can lead to the spread of disease. It's important to keep feeders clean by regularly replacing old seed and washing feeders that have become too soiled by birds. Clean by removing all seed, wash to remove any residue on the feeder, and disinfect it with an application of bleach solution (one part chloride bleach, nine parts water.) Remove any remaining solution by rinsing in clean water and allow the feeder to completely dry before refilling.



Cold Weather Tips for Pets

- Outdoor pets require additional food and a fresh, unfrozen water source during these colder months. Check to see if the water is not frozen too quickly to allow the pet access to enough water. Consider adding a heater to the water bowl if necessary. Rubber or plastic bowls are preferred, not metal.
- After walking your pet outside on winter streets, it is a good idea to wipe off the pads of their paws when they enter the house to remove any salt or chemical residue that may irritate the skin or stomach lining if licked off.
- Trim any excess hair between their pads if ice chunks develop on their feet during winter walks to lessen the irritation caused by the ice.

We have calcium chloride and magnesium chloride for cold weather ice melting. Poultry grit is great for traction. Keep some in your car and by the front door to reduce slipping.

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

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