

Timely Turf Tips August 2006



In past August Timely Turf Tips, we've generally urged you to jump into various fall revitalization projects of fertilizer, seed and weed control programs. *However, this year's lengthy drought & hot spell require resisting the impulse to fertilize or apply weed control. Just WATER!* The University of Minnesota Extension Service recommends watering 1 to 1½ inches every 7 to 10 days for a green, actively growing lawn. If you have **compacted** or **sandy soil**, they recommend ½ inch to ¾ inch each time you water. The same amount is recommended if your lawn has gone **dormant** with the extended heat and drought, in order to keep grass crowns alive. Both the U of MN Extension Service and Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences provide valuable web sites to reference for all your lawn care questions (www.turf.umn.edu and www.cas.psu.edu). If you don't find answers pertaining to your specific issues, please feel free to **stop in, call or email Steve** to discuss them. **651-429-3361** hugofeed@comcast.net

Keeping in mind that most lawns are *extremely* stressed-out, even "fried" and have gone into dormancy you'll need to **wait until it's completely recovered** to initiate any fertilizer/weed control/re-seeding programs. At that point, successful turf maintenance fertilization requires that you assess your turf's nutritional requirements, understanding fertilizers by knowing how much to apply *and when*, and use of proper application techniques. A standard fall fertilizer recommendation for thickening your lawn and preparing it for winter is **Hugo Feed Mill Brand 25-0-15**. Depending on whether you fertilize 2 or 3 times per year, you will want to apply 25-0-15 with in the next 3 weeks and then again between October 15-31; or wait until around September 1st if you are applying once per year. Fall is the best time for aeration of your lawn. **Hugo Feed Mill** has a plug aerator available for rent and can help you develop a custom aeration program to alleviate a number of problems you may be encountering such as compaction, thatch build-up and poor air exchange. After aeration is the time to apply fertilizer. If you have clay or compacted soil applying gypsum at this time is advisable.

With the recent rain and cooler weather we are seeing that most of our lawns are starting to green up and recover. Again, after your lawn has *fully recovered* you can initiate weed control and re-seeding techniques. Depending on problem areas, **Trimec**, **Weed Free Zone** or **Speed Zone** are all effective herbicides. If you've developed **large patches of solid crabgrass** in your yard, you may want to start completely over by spraying the area with "**Killzall**" or "**Round Up**", waiting until it's completely brown, then tilling and seeding the entire area (or leaving the dead crabgrass for mulch and slitseeding). The earlier you can complete the process the better, so that new seeding will be well established by spring so you can apply "**Dimension**" crabgrass prevention. (**Preferably, seeding should be completed by September 15th in this case.**)

When seeding, it's important to take stock of what you need and want out of your lawn – what "uses" will it need to hold up to, or is it "just for show". This can direct what variety of seed is best for you to plant.

Timely Turf Tip



"Ed Says"

Ed at Hugo Mill Outdoor Power (651- 429-8163) reminds you that while it's okay to lower your mower deck to 2 ½ - 3 inches in height as Fall's cooler temps prevail, you'll want to make sure your **blades** are **sharp** to avoid turf damage.

We have our own special blends of seed to meet your needs. **Hugo Shady Mix** and **Hugo Premium Sunny Mix** are just two of the many varieties we have in stock. We can help direct your decisions and create the lawn of your dreams!

As always, Hugo Feed Mill appreciates your patronage throughout the year and we look forward to working with you on fall projects. Please let us know if there are any subjects you would like us to cover in our final 2006

Timely Turf Tips coming in October.

Have a great fall!

\$ **1.00** OFF



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