

TIMELY TURF TIPS October 2006

IS NOW THE TIME FOR YOU TO APPLY YOUR FALL FERTILIZER? Depending on the timing of your last application your lawn may need fertilization now or later in the month, but **most importantly, before the ground freezes**. If you **DID NOT** apply in September, **APPLY NOW**, while those of you who **DID** can wait until the **END OF OCTOBER**. (We've once again provided a coupon below for our recommended fall fertilizer.) A second and equally important fall lawn practice is to **continue watering turf, perennials, shrubs and trees until the ground freezes** to maintain active, healthy growth throughout the fall. If you have additional fall plans to spray for Creeping Charlie or other broad leaves, it is best to apply in the midday sun when the evening temperatures will not drop below 45°F. If you have more questions regarding weed control, please feel free to give Steve a call.

As in previous October Newsletters we urge you to take the time *now* to look over your yard to determine its positive qualities as well as its problem areas. After your review, it's important to *document* your findings, even to the point of *mapping the locations* of problems. For instance, right now crabgrass has turned brown. It's easy to locate, so you can devise a plan for next spring. The plan consisting of; timely application of a crab grass preventer, broadleaf control and fertilizing as needed. This should set us up for over seeding at the end of August. If you have portions of your lawn you would like to dormant seed, now is the perfect time (but skip applying the crabgrass preventer in the spring.)

A number of you have recently brought other issues to our attention; namely **box elder bugs**, **moles** and **voles**. For more information on how to combat these pests you can visit the U of M web site at www.extension.umn.edu by clicking on the link or using the search feature.

Here's a brief description between a mole and a vole. A mole will tunnel below the surface of your turf that will create a raised runway and sometimes circular mounds of soil. A vole will tend to have small holes without dirt exposed and cause tunneling on top of the surface. This will be very noticeable in the spring when the snow melts.

Here are some ideas on how to minimize damage and the population of voles for the winter. *Voles can damage trees, plants and bulbs* so it's important to use a protection around these items such as hardware cloth, small mesh fencing and plastic cylinders. Because voles' are active in the winter we need to control them now by putting down snap traps, bait stations and *mowing your grass short regularly until freezing*. For mole control please stop in and let us guide you with what options are available for this time of year. Please send us feedback on how helpful we've been or could be with your lawn care needs and as always if in doubt give a shout!

TIMELY TURF TIP:

Mow your grass shorter before winter and thoroughly rake/mulch to lessen the chance of snow mold in spring.

Thank You for joining us for another year of Timely Turf Tips! As always, we value your business and any success stories/residual problems you care to share.

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