

Timely Turf Tips

August 2008

While we've enjoyed a milder summer without extreme temperatures or a full-blown drought, the rains *have* been spotty, requiring some of you to water regularly in order to avoid a dry, brown lawn. If you've been following a watering regimen, or you've been lucky with regard to precipitation, continue to ensure sufficient hydration, and **apply your fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen/1000 ft.²** (Hugo Feed Mill brand **25-0-15** is recommended—see coupon below). This will encourage healthy growth to increase density of your turf and to promote healthier grass next spring. It's also the **time to apply your 2nd application of corn gluten meal** for those of you following the "greener" regimen for crabgrass control. Also keep in mind that **Hugo Feed Mill** carries a full range of fertilizer and other lawn care products, including the *organic* and *slow release* versions.

As fall approaches it's a great time to work on lawn projects such as **aeration and fertilizing** for maintaining healthy turf. In our *August 2005* issue (<http://www.hugofeedmill.com/TTT/TTTAug2005.pdf>) you will find more detail on aeration/fertilizer. *August 2006* issue (<http://www.hugofeedmill.com/TTT/TTTAug2006.pdf>) will lead you to information on **weed control** that is best tackled this time of year. *August 2007* issue (<http://www.hugofeedmill.com/TTT/TTTAug2007.pdf>) talks about how this time is prime for **reseeding/overseeding**. You can find any of our Timely Turf Tips Newsletters posted at our website www.hugofeedmill.com.

Important Note: April of 2009 the 2005 TTT Newsletters will be coming off the website. Make a point to print or download to your computer if you choose to refer back to them at a later date. The U of MN Extension web site can also provide you with a lot of great info (do a search under "lawn renovation" at www.extension.umn.edu), or **Steve Marier at the Hugo Feed Mill** (651-429-3361 or email steve@hugofeedmill.com). Whether you require guidance in the *soil testing* and *planning* stages, *equipment rental*, or with *project completion* and *ongoing maintenance*, **The Mill's customized services** along with **Steve's knowledge and experience** will put you on the right track.

Some of the "most asked questions" at the **Mill** of late have been regarding the problem of **Moles**. Even a *single mole* can do enough damage to our lawns and gardens to *seem like many*. In truth, moles are solitary animals, and 3 to 5 moles per acre would be considered a high population. The problem is, because they eat **70 to 100 %** of their body weight *every day*, their hunting grounds need to be large enough to fulfill their food requirements. Keep in mind they are *insectivores*, not herbivores, and rarely consume plants or plant parts. Any damage they cause to plants is generally incidental to their disrupting the plant roots by tunneling. That's why it's important to determine you definitely have a *mole* problem, not that of a *vole* or *gopher*. Moles will leave a mound that is round and a gopher will leave a mound that is oblong or horseshoe shaped. Once you've determined the offender *is* a mole, your first objective is to locate an *active tunnel*. There are various ways of eliminating the moles. We believe **trapping** is considered the *most effective* method, as well as the *least harmful* to other plant/animal life and the environment. If trapping is not for you, we do have many other methods available. Consult with **Steve at Hugo Feed Mill** for what will work the best to combat *your* annoying pests.

Other nuisances you may be encountering such as unidentified insects, blights or fungi might be affecting your plants' ability to flower or to produce fruit/vegetables at this key time of year. Or maybe you just need help identifying if a plant in your perennial bed is a wanted or unwanted guest? It's important not to let gardens become overly abundant with weeds, as this will translate to more weed seeds causing trouble next year. The U of MN has a web site to help answer plant identification questions and more. After logging on to www.extension.umn.edu, simply click on "gardening", then on any of the referenced

topics such as "Is this a plant or weed?", "What's wrong with my plant?", or "What insect is this?". This website is still in progress so if you don't find what you need, check back at a later date. You can pick up many other gardening-related tips as well, such as the fact that **fall is a great time to plant many flowering perennials!** You may also want to divide crowded perennial beds, such as irises. Dig up the bulbs, discard the woody older center and cut away any parts that are rotted, then replant the healthy portions just below the soil surface. Whatever your fall project plans, **Hugo Feed Mill** has the **products, services, and expertise** to pave the way to great results! **Thank you** for continuing to be a loyal customer, and plan on stopping in to say, "Hi" to our new faces, Leo, Alexandra and Nate, who's taken over for Sara as she returned to school; We wish Sara, Nicole and Jim "Good Luck" as they pursue their continuing education! **Remember to visit our website to keep up to date on current specials and coupons at:**

www.hugofeedmill.com

Have a wonderful fall season!

Timely Turf Tip



"Ed says..."

Ed at Hugo Mill Outdoor Power (651)429-8163 says bring your mower blades in for sharpening, so when you set your deck lower for fall (2 1/2 - 3 in.) you won't damage turf preparing for winter

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