



Timely Turf Tips May 2008

We are about 2 weeks behind on our newsletter and so is the weather. Lawns have been slow and/or spotty to green up, especially in clay-type soils. We would like to address our most frequently asked questions. **Q)** Crabgrass – am I too late to apply a preventer? **A)** No, with the cooler weather you can still apply at this time. **Q)** What about Crabgrass escapes? **A)** They can be combated with **Dimension** spray, at a rate of 1 ½ oz. / 1000 ft². This product provides *post-emergent* as well as some *residual* crabgrass control. It can be applied up to 4 weeks later than other postemergence controls due to its “reach back” ability, and is safe to use around trees and shrubs. **Weed Out Plus** and **Trimec Plus** are also effective on crabgrass, but kill broadleaf weeds as well. As spring progresses into summer, **Q4** can provide fast acting, warm-weather applicable formula that *can be applied* throughout June, July and August (temperatures of up to 90°F). In addition, it’s rain-fast within 6 hours. A component of **Q4**, **Weed Free Zone**, or its concentrated form **Speed Zone**, are among some of the most effective products we carry to combat tough weeds such as **clover**, **creeping charlie**, **poison ivy** and **thistle**. Remember that any of these **contact killers** are exactly what the name implies, so *following all label directions* and assessing weather conditions when applying lawn products will prevent problematic issues from arising due to over-spray and/or over-application. **Q)** How soon can I seed after applying crabgrass preventer? **A)** Seed will *not* germinate after crabgrass prevention. You must wait until the later part of August, which is an optimal time to seed due to the summer heat recession. **Q)** What can I do about dog spots in my lawn? **A)** Please refer to our May 2007 issue posted at our website. **Q)** I have some grasses in my lawn that are much taller than others, what are they and what can I do? **A)** There are a variety of perennial grasses that are more tolerant to the colder weather therefore grows faster than your cool season grasses. If they are bothersome, you will need to spray with **Killzall** and start over, consulting Steve on this project is recommended. The other option is to just keep it mowed more often and this will mask the problem.

I want to touch base on a few hot weather tips for when it finally gets here. We advise you to **raise** your mower height, the longer blade of grass is more tolerant to heat and drought and won’t need to be watered as often. How often should you water you ask? Generally it is not necessary until the months of **June, July and August**. The amount is dependant on your type of soil; for **loamy** or **silty** soil one inch per week. If your soil is **sandy** you should water a half an inch twice a week or more if intense heat. For **clay** soils water slowly or several times a week to allow time to soak in. Always adjust watering amounts to account for summer rains. The *time of day* you water is equally important. The best time is between 4:00am and 8:00am. Later mornings is okay; but avoids watering late in the day where the grass remains wet through out the night. If you water during the heat of the day, water is loss to evaporation. When your lawn is newly planted or under stress from disease you will want to increase your watering schedule.

We are excited about a product now available at **Hugo Feed Mill** that improves soil structure in containers, beds, and landscapes in general, by managing water and oxygen pore space for optimal root development. **Turface**, a soil conditioning product from *Profile Soil Products*, reduces watering requirements and optimizes root initiation and growth by altering the soil structure to better balance water and air holding space. This means more moisture retention (i.e. less watering) while still maintaining good drainage; a reduction in soil compaction; and an overall balance of nutrients in the soil for much improved results! If you’re short on gardening space, you may want to consider **potting** pepper, tomato or other vegetable plants. **Steve Marier** at **Hugo Mill** has had good success using it for his potted pepper plants and perennials/shrubs (see attached picture). In addition, many excellent gardening tips can be found from the U of MN web site www.extension.umn.edu (click on “Gardening Information”). You will also find Yard & Gardens News, with updated info as the season progresses, and soon to be completed (~June 15) Diagnostic Module That will both pictorial and textual means of determining plant type, diseases, and insect infestations. Because our newsletter space is limited, we want to encourage you to augment this information by visit one or more of the following web sites: www.sustland.umn.edu; www.vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu; www.uwex.edu; or www.weedalert.com.

Timely Turf Tip:

Weed Free Zone & **Speed Zone** can provide effective weed control for your turf. Apply when temps are between 50-85 degrees and don’t spray right after mowing or when weeds are under stress.

Hugo Feed Mill can help answer many questions you have with regard to proper lawn care for your particular turf situation. Since we believe the best weed control is strong, healthy turf that won’t allow weeds to take root, we recommend our 25-0-15 fertilizer. **Stop in, call (651-429-3361) or email (steve@hugofeedmill.com) us**

for all your lawn & yard needs!

WE APPRECIATE YOU & YOUR BUSINESS!

\$1⁰⁰ OFF/BAG



40# Bag
Hugo Feed
Mill Brand
25-0-15
Fertilizer

(Limit 4 Bags) Expires 6/21/08