



Spring 2008



Welcome to the start of our **6th year** publishing **Timely Turf Tips**—we apologize that our newsletter seems to be as slow in coming as the spring season has been so far! Soil temps have remained cold, so it's very important to **be patient** and **wait** to start more major lawn and garden projects that are usually associated with this time of year. As this "late" spring progresses, you may notice some areas of your lawn starting to grow faster than others due to uneven soil temps as it's warming up. You will want to **mow these areas** taking no more than 1/3 of the grass blade, this will keep your lawn even until all the turf grows at the same rate and you can get on a regular mowing schedule. If your lawn needs **dethatching** or **plug aeration** it's a project best done in the fall. If you feel the need to now, wait till you have mowed two or three times. There are also a couple of products available that are ready for spreading or spraying that break down thatch build up as an alternative procedure.

You may find that crabgrass is a significant nuisance this year due to its prevalence last year. As in years past, **Hugo Feed Mill** will be **sending out an email alert** when the **time is right** for **crabgrass prevention** applications. Although the Mill carries a number of effective products, you'll recall from past newsletters that timely application is **all-important** in preventing product components from being used up prematurely and allowing crabgrass to regain a strong foothold in your yard later in the season. You might also recall that for the past several years we've suggested a natural product, *Corn Gluten Meal* to those of you searching for a **"greener solution"** to this common problem. Because this product prevents sprouting seeds from developing a normal root system, it makes them susceptible to dehydration, which in return will make the new sprout die. It will not have any effect on existing weeds, they will need to be dug or pulled (preferably after a heavy rain when the ground is soft.) As the Corn Gluten Meal breaks down it adds nitrogen to strengthen the already established grass. Truly effective control with this method comes after 3 consecutive years of adhering to an application regimen in spring and again in the fall. Then throughout the spring/summer, mow your lawn at the highest recommended height to promote healthy growth and thickening of the grasses you do want in your lawn. For more on Corn Gluten Meal and other thinking green ideas visit this website www.pesticide.org. Looking for organic alternatives for spring fertilizing? Call or stop by the Mill to learn more about this option. As always, **Hugo Feed Mill** continues to carry a **full line up** of **weed control and fertilizer** products to suit your needs.

Since everyone's turf needs are different, we continue to strongly recommend **compiling a lawn care file** that lists concerns and issues you want to work on, as well as strategies to combat them, and the successes you've had. It may also be helpful, if you've printed out these Timely Tips Newsletters, to group similar issues together chronologically (i.e. all the Spring issues together, May together, August, etc.) for quicker reference. You may even want to make notations as new problems present themselves and/or questions arise. Count on **Steve Marier** (email steve@hugofeedmill.com or phone **651-429-3361**) and the **Hugo Feed Mill** for sound advice and proven methods in turf grass management. For instance, taking a soil test is advisable for establishing a fertilizer regimen. Don't miss *the savings* in our **"Spring Problem Solver Sale"** flyer, which is **valid through the end of the month** (located in the previous email and the Citizen newspaper.)

Another good source of spring information is the U of MN web site, www.extension.umn.edu. New links have been added, such as "Gardening Info" and "Yard & Garden News" (*Current* and *Past* Issues), to aid you in your quest for timely information suitable for your lawn and garden situation.

Timely Tip:

Apply Crabgrass Prevention before soil temps reach 60°-65° for several days (generally May 1-15) and water in. **Timely Tip:** Hummingbirds and Orioles have been spotted in the area. It's time to clean and put out your feeders!

We want to thank you for continuing to be a **loyal customer of the Hugo Feed Mill**, and for subscribing to this newsletter. Remember that previous issues of Timely Turf Tips, and other valuable information, are available on our website, www.hugofeedmill.com!

Pruning Tips:

Spring –flowering shrubs such as forsythia, lilacs and azaleas should be pruned after blooming. Prune evergreen shrubs once new growth begins to expand. Prune selectively; don't remove all the new growth. **Note:** Do not prune Oak trees from now until fall. Raw wood attracts beetles that spread oak wilt disease.