

# Timely Turf Tips August 2009



**Finally some rain!** Since the first of August, we have recorded over 6 inches of precipitation here in the Twin Cities. That's more rain than we had in May, June and July combined. With the rain and the sunshine, lawns are coming back and should be ready for fall lawn care.

## Lawn:

- Apply weed-killer and fertilizer for lawn care, but not to newly seeded areas.
- If you fertilize only once/year (low maintenance) now is the time! If you like to fertilize twice in the fall, apply fertilizer now thru mid-September and after October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Apply your fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen/1000 sq.ft. Hugo Feed Mill brand 25-0-15 is recommended. (coupon below)
- Now through mid-September is prime time to plug aerate, add gypsum to clay/compacted soil and spread lime depending on your lawn's needs.
- If you are using corn gluten meal to control crabgrass, apply your second application now.
- Now is the best time to seed new lawn, over seed, patch bare spots, and install sod. There isn't as much competition with weed seeds now. For best results do it before September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- For more lawn information, check out U of M Bob Mugaas' updates at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo/> New posting coming soon!
- We have our own lawn expert onsite to answer any lawn care questions too! Call or email Steve Marier at 651-429-3361 [steve@hugofeedmill.com](mailto:steve@hugofeedmill.com) or go to our website: <http://www.hugofeedmill.com>

## Wildlife:

- **Moles** are making a mess of lawns and gardens now especially after the rains we've had recently. Moles produce two types of tunnels, or "runways" in your yard. One runway runs just beneath the surface. These are feeding tunnels and appear as raised ridges running across your lawn. The second type of runway runs deeper and enables the moles to unite the feeding tunnels in a network. Trapping is the most effective method and the least harmful to other plant and animal life. Our staff can show you how it's done! Other methods are also available: <http://www.hugofeedmill.com/TTT/TTTAug2008.pdf>
- **Japanese Beetles** are continuing to move into the area with more damage to plants reported this year. There is no organic way to get rid of these pests. Best method of organic eradication: pick them off plants every morning when they are at their most active stage and drop them into a container of soapy water. We do have other products that will help control these pests.

## Gardens:

- **Plant fall vegetables now!** Radish, lettuce, beets, peas and spinach will be ready to harvest before our first killing frost.
- Complete evergreen pruning before the end of the month to prevent winter injury.
- Deadhead annuals for more blooms.
- Divide irises and daylilies.



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