



Timely Turf Tips May 2009

The growing season is about 2 weeks behind and so am I in getting the May Timely Turf Tips into your hands. However, since this IS the TIMELY Turf Tips and the season IS behind, the information is still timely!

We experienced the driest May since 1934 and the 3rd driest May on record. The fluctuating weather patterns and lack of rain this spring have made it tough for lawns and gardens to break dormancy for a lush, green "spring" look. The best solution to get your lawn/plants thriving and green is to water. A handy trick to determine how long the sprinkler should be on is to set a tuna can within the watering area and water until the can measures 1" of water if you have clay soil or ½" of water (2x/week) for sandy soil. Adding Turface will condition the soil and reduce the water requirements by managing water and oxygen pore space for optimal root development. For more information on Turface in the May 2008 newsletter: <http://www.hugofeedmill.com/TTT/TTTMay20081.pdf>

Lawn Care:

- Raise your mower blades to 3" or more and cut no more than 1/3 of the height of the lawn. This will reduce stress and inhibit weed growth.
- If and ONLY IF you have been watering and your lawn is not stressed, fertilize with 25-0-15 to promote deeper, more robust roots.
- Check out Bob Mugaas' "Yard & Garden News" for great information on more late May lawn care tips. <http://tinyurl.com/m2tamn>

Weeds:

- Crabgrass Prevention can still be applied using a product called Dimension. Primarily a pre-emergent it still works on young post-emergent shoots if sprayed.
- Crabgrass and other broadleaf weeds: Spot-spray Trimec Plus (contact killer) early June through the end of July.
- Creeping Charlie, clover, dandelions and thistle: Spray Weed Free Zone or Speedzone. Added bonus: both products become rainfast within 4 hrs. and allow for reseeding within 2 weeks of application.
- Poison ivy and wild violets: Apply Brushmaster at a rate of 2 oz./1000 sq. ft. Spray violets again in 2 weeks.

Gardens:

- Plant summer bulbs.
- Fertilize roses & stake larger plant varieties.
- Pinch back phlox, asters & mums for productivity.
- Begin apple tree spray programs after blossoms drop.
- Pick rhubarb until the last week in June. Then stop picking to allow roots to store energy for next season.

Emerald Ash Borer:

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an insect that attacks and kills ash trees. There are NO reports of EAB in the Hugo area.
- If you think you have found emerald ash borer, go through the steps to be sure: <http://tinyurl.com/p47wgs>
- For additional information; go to <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab.htm>
- Please help stop the spread of Emerald Ash Borer: DO NOT transport firewood. More info to come!

New Product Spotlight: Quench

Quench is a unique, moisture management product made from natural materials. It captures and holds moisture from the soil and air. Quench then returns the water into the plants roots allowing longer intervals between watering, up to two times longer! This product not only reduces the need for continual watering but also encourages healthy roots for a healthier plant. Use in Planting Beds & Landscape, Indoor and Outdoor Containers/ Hanging Baskets, Shrub/Tree Planting, vegetable gardens and Lawns. Get it at the Mill!

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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.