



Welcome to the 7th consecutive year of Hugo Feed Mill's Timely Turf Tips!

The onset of more temperate weather always tempts people to jump into all manner of lawn & garden projects. It's best not to be overly anxious. Here's what you should be doing in your yard and garden now:

Lawn Care:

- Lightly rake lawn to remove overwinter debris
- Sweep leaves, sand, rocks or pet waste off of hard surfaces to prevent them from reaching storm sewers.
- Repair patches or winter damage from salt, snow removal & pets by overseeding. Scratch up the surface of the affected area, and work *Gypsum* into the soil at a rate of ½ to 1 cup per sq. ft., sprinkle on the seed, lightly rake into the surface soil and tamp down to ensure good soil-to-seed contact. Keep the seeded area *damp* (not *wet*).
- See Ed Marier at Hugo Mill Outdoor Power for a complete lawn equipment tune up and worry-free yard care all year long. **651-429-8163 Check out their new website! www.hugomill.com**

For more early spring lawn care information: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/extensionnews/2009/early-spring-lawn.html>

Garden:

- Divide and replant overgrown perennials
- Till flower & vegetable garden soil and add compost
- Plant root & leafy vegetables (ex. carrots, potatoes, onions, beets, lettuce, spinach, peas, broccoli)
- Plant trees & shrubs
- Fertilize trees, shrubs & spring bulbs (when foliage emerges)
- Install peony hoops
- Take note of unproductive spring-flowering bulbs to dig up and divide after the foliage has died.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, lilacs and azaleas after *blooming*
- Prune evergreen shrubs once new growth begins to expand. Prune selectively; don't remove all the new growth.
- Add early spring color with pansies and violas to your perennial beds.

Where the Wild Things are:

- It's time to clean out and fill your feeders for all the migratory birds now returning to our area!
- Hummingbirds and orioles are starting to arrive! It's time to hang your feeders! If you are in need of new feeders; all in-stock bird feeders are *30% OFF*, 40 lb. Hugo Cardinal Mix is *\$2 off/bag* and Finch socks are *B.O.G.O. Free*.

Don't Do That:

I was listening to the radio and heard a commercial; it said... now is a good time to apply Weed & Feed. Not true!

- Dethatching and plug aerating are not advised until you've mown 2 or 3 times—(This is best done in the Fall)
- It's still too early for crabgrass preventer—be sure to watch your email for a notice from HUGO FEED MILL about the right time to apply!
- Do not prune oak trees from now until fall. Raw wood attracts beetles that spread oak wilt disease.
- It's too early to apply grub control products for mole prevention, wait until May 10th this year.
- Do not plant your tomatoes, beans, peppers, melons, squash, etc. till later this month. These plants need warm soil to perform well. If planted too early it will stunt the growth of the plants and not give you the head start you're looking for.

Specials:

Check out our *Spring Problem-Solver sale flyer* in the April 29th edition of *The Citizen* newspaper.

- Lawn seed (buy 1 lb. get 1 free),
- Fertilizer (\$1 off/bag),
- Potting/top soil, lime/gypsum and cow manure (50¢ off/bag).
- Tomcat Mole Poison is \$16.97 per box. Traps & MoleMax are available too.
- Save on Katie K-9 recommended Nutri-Source Dog & Cat Food.

If you don't subscribe to the paper, contact us via email info@hugofeedmill.com and we'll be sure to send one right out!

Steve's Timely Turf Tip:

Soil Testing is an important tool for producing beautiful lawns and prize-winning vegetable gardens. Throughout previous newsletters, I've continued to recommend developing a customized lawn care file specifically relating to your specific yard. Bring your test results to me and I will develop a strategy for your lawn/garden. Ideas and products for environmentally conscious strategies and "greener solutions" for fertilizing, crabgrass/weed control and insecticides are also available.

Steve Marier (651) 429-3361 or via email at steve@hugofeedmill.com

Once again thank you for joining us at the start of another growing season. We always appreciate your loyalty and patronage to our store! Call or stop by to see us soon!

Previous issues of Timely Turf Tips newsletters are available at our website, www.hugofeedmill.com