

Timely Turf Tips

April 2011

It's April, and I just want to get outside! Last year we had an early spring but there's nothing early about this. It's been a crazy spring with temperatures rising and falling, and the prospect of snow is still with us. Yet, we'll be getting some 50 degree and even 60 degree days soon and you just can't help wanting to get out and do SOMETHING in the garden!

Beware! The ground is still cold, and soggy, and walking through garden beds and even heavy raking of lawns is not good for the soil. You need to resist until we get into mid-April to give the lawn a good cleanup.

The good news is there's plenty of moisture in the ground and plenty to do while the soil firms up! We know from past springs, the weather can change rapidly and all of a sudden it's in the 70's.

You can get a few things done now:

- You can spray dormant oil sprays on fruit trees oil to control insects before growth begins.
- You can safely remove the tree wrap from your young trees.
- You can prune fruit trees.
- You can do some dormant pruning on certain shrubs that get cut back early in the spring (don't cut back any shrubs that bloom early in the spring – such as lilacs, forsythia and spring spirea, or you will cut off this years flower buds)
- Speaking of forsythia, go out and cut some stems and bring them in the house to force into flower.
- You can work the edges of your garden beds and cut back last years foliage of perennials. Do NOT walk into your beds. Stay out in the sidewalk or grass and just get what you can.

To do after the snow melts and the ground is firm:

- You can remove winter mulch on strawberries and roses.
- You can plant cold crops (lettuce, beets, carrots, peas, spinach, radish)
- You can rake the lawn and finish cleaning out garden beds.

If it's still snowing later this month:

- Clean the garage, get your tools ready.
- Buy your crabgrass preventer now. We'll send out an email when it's the optimal time to apply it.
- Don't worry...spring will come! And don't be in a rush to get everything done at once.



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

\$1.00 Off

50# Bag of Crabgrass Preventer

(Limit 4)

1 coupon per customer. Expires 4/30/11

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