

Timely Turf Tips

August 2014

All the rain in June was great for the lawns, but Mother Nature sure could help now with some moisture. Yards are getting dry and hard. Weeds seem to thrive in this type of weather and homeowners may want to spray to control them. Remember that if lawns are droughty, wait until more consistent moisture is available to the lawn before spraying for weeds to prevent damaging the lawn grass. Hand-pulling weeds before they drop seeds will lessen next year's generation. Fall will provide another opportunity to control troublesome weeds, but that is an item for next month's Timely Turf Tips (TTT.)

Lawn Care Tips for August:

- Last month we recommended that you keep the grass 3 to 3 ½ inches tall with regular mowing. This is still true until more moisture becomes available as fall approaches.
- Would you believe the best time to plant grass seed is mid-August through September 20? The longer, cooler nights and reduced weed seed competition give grass seedlings a better start toward becoming established. See the coupon below for savings on HugoLawnGrass seed.
 - Remember to apply a starter fertilizer before seeding or applying sod. Ask at the mill about soil sampling now, so that when you are ready to prepare your soil, you will know the correct amount to apply. If you have a large area to seed, ask about renting our Hydroseeder to make a big job easier.
- If you fertilize only once per year (low maintenance), then late August is the time to do it. Apply your fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. We recommend Hugo Feed Mill's brand 25-0-15, with slow-release nitrogen for a longer feeding period. A 40# bag covers 10,000 square feet and there is a coupon attached below.
- Core aerate mid-August to lessen soil compaction and allow better penetration of moisture to the root zone. Excess thatch should be reduced also as more oxygen is available to organisms that breakdown the thatch, including earthworms.



Garden Care Tips for August:

- Now that we have harvested our garlic. Here is more information on curing and storing garlic from the U of M Extension at this link:
www.extension.umn.edu/garden/fruit-vegetable/growing-garlic-in-minnesota/index.html
- With the dry conditions, it is very important to water tomatoes regularly. Inconsistent watering is a cause of blossom end rot.
 - If your iris patch is 3-4 years old and not looking as healthy as before, divide them this month. See this University of Minnesota Extension article, www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/flowers/iris/, under the heading Division for details.
- Keep hand-picking Japanese Beetles as mentioned last month's TTT. Their numbers are increasing. See us if you need other products to help controls these pests.

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

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(Maximum value: \$5.00)

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\$1.00 Off

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