

# Timely Turf Tips

## May 2014

**Okay, spring is looking like it may finally be here.** Now is the time to remove that winter mulch from the perennials. Most lawns are firm enough for spring maintenance and will tolerate a good thorough cleanup if the rains of late April prevented that chore. When the lawn needs mowing, remember that the University of Minnesota Extension states in their *Early May Lawn Care Tips* that the best root growth occurs in the spring. Keeping the mower height at 2 ½ - 3" will allow healthier roots to develop compared to shorter mowing. Healthier roots will provide the grass a better capacity to withstand summer heat and drought.

### Lawn Care:

- If your yard had problems with crabgrass or other annual weeds, apply a pre-emergent herbicide when the soil temperature reaches 50 degrees. Be sure to watch your email for a notice from Steve when it is the right time to apply. Save money on your purchase with the coupon below. Try a corn gluten meal product if you prefer an organic option of control. A 50# bag with 9-10% nitrogen will cover 2500 sq. ft. Both products need to be watered with ¼ - ½" of water shortly after applying for best effectiveness.
- Fertilize your lawn with an application of 25-0-15 fertilizer, now improved with 50% slow-release nitrogen, sometime between the end of May and mid-June.



### Garden Care:

- Add any soil amendments (compost and aged manure is best added 2-3 weeks before planting) and/or fertilizer recommended by your soil test results to your garden. Remember the crumble test from last month's tips; if the garden soil doesn't break apart with slight pressure after forming a ball, then wait to begin in order to prevent soil compaction.
- **Spring care for garlic.** Uncover garlic and when new leaves begin to grow, fertilize the bulbs with a high nitrogen fertilizer that releases the nutrients slowly over the growing season. Steve recommends Grower's Special 12-6-6 with time-release fertilizer, available at the mill. Work 1-2 teaspoons into the soil around each plant and mulch again. Remove any developing flower stalks to encourage bulb growth.
- Plant parsley, head lettuce, cauliflower, early cabbage, kale, and onion plants in the garden now. Start muskmelons, pumpkins, and winter squash indoors now for transplanting into the garden later this month.
- Remember to thin those early seeded crops like radishes, leaf lettuce and spinach to allow the young plants room to grow

### Straw Bale Gardening

If compacted or nutrient-poor soil is limiting your garden, then straw bale gardening could be the solution for better yields. After a 10-12 day conditioning process (think composting), your seeds or transplants can be grown directly in the straw bales. This type of gardening is a great choice if soil-borne diseases are a problem. Stop by the mill to purchase *Straw Bale Gardens* by Joel Karsten and gather all the needed supplies to get started. Also ask to see our on-site straw bale garden.

### Greenhouse is coming.

Watch for the arrival of a new feature for Hugo Feed Mill. Soon there will be a 21 x 66 foot greenhouse erected for displaying the vast assortment of tomato and pepper varieties available at the mill. Get ready with the list of your favorites from last year's taste events.

Previous issues of Timely Turf Tips newsletters are available at our website: [www.hugofeedmill.com](http://www.hugofeedmill.com)

**\$1.00 Off**

**40# Bag of 25-0-15 Fertilizer**

(Limit 4 bags)

1 coupon per customer. Expires 5/31/14

**Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware**

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**\$1.00 Off**

**Crabgrass Preventer**

(Limit 4 bags)

1 coupon per customer. Expires 5/31/14

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