

Timely Turf Tips

May 2015

Thank you to all the people that attended the grand opening last month. The great weather and large turnout made for a wonderful day. Steve says that door prize winners will be announced soon.

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. If you missed the chance to talk to Joel Karsten at the grand opening, stop by the mill to purchase *Straw Bale Gardens* by Joel and gather all the needed supplies to get started.



Garden Care:

- **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

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. 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.
- When mowing this month, 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.
- May is Arbor month and a great time to plant a tree. If you are looking for help in this project, check out this link by the Department of Natural Resources for tree planting tips- www.dnr.state.mn.us/arbormonth/index.html.

Greenhouse is up and open for business.

More flowers, more hanging baskets and a better selection will be available this season. Check out the wide assortment of tomato and pepper varieties. Hours are: Monday – Friday 9AM – 8 PM, Saturday 8 AM – 6 PM, and Sunday 9 AM – 6 PM. Stop in and bring some color home.

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

\$1.00 off

40# Bag of 25-0-15 Fertilizer

(Limit 4)

1 coupon per customer. Expires 5/31/15

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware

5582 146th St. N. Hugo, MN 55038 651-429-3361

20% off

Hummingbird and Oriole Feeders

(In stock)

1 coupon per customer. Expires 5/31/15

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware

5582 146th St. N. Hugo, MN 55038 651-429-3361