

Timely Turf Tips

August 2016

Recent timely rains have greened up the backyard. As fall approaches, consider doing a few lawn maintenance projects to improve the lawn. Mid-August is a great time to core aerate the lawn. Aerating with a machine that cuts and pulls plugs of turf to the surface of the lawn will lessen soil compaction and allow better penetration of moisture to the root zone. Excess thatch will also be reduced as the soil will provide organisms to break down the thatch. Earthworms benefit from the increased oxygen levels in the soil layer too. A healthy lawn needs earthworms to continue the breakdown of organic matter, like thatch, and for their tunnels, which open a pathway for water and air to penetrate the soil layer. If summer drought left the yard needing some reseeding, then fall is the best time for that project. Use the tips and coupon below to get started.

August Lawn and Garden Tips

- Last month we recommended keeping grass 3 to 3 ½ inches tall with regular mowing. This is still true until more moisture becomes available as fall approaches. Remember that gradually lowering cutting height (think 1/2 inch increments or one notch change at a time per mowing) is best for the grass.
- Mid-August is the best time to seed new lawn, overseed, patch bare spots, and install sod. There isn't as much competition with weed seed in the fall and longer, cooler nights make it easier for grass to become established. For best results, do it before September 20. Remember to apply a starter fertilizer before the seed/sod. See the folks at the mill for information about soil sampling now so that you know the proper amount of fertilizer to add when preparing the area. If your area to seed is large, 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.
- Continue to maintain the garden. Regular watering, weeding and harvesting (or removing faded flowers in the flower garden) will keep gardens productive through early autumn or later. Dispose of any overripe produce, which can attract wasps and picnic beetles to the garden. Consider donating extra garden produce to local food shelves.
- Without adequate rainfall (1 inch per week), it is especially important to water tomatoes regularly. Inconsistent watering is a cause of blossom end rot.
- Thinking of trying late season vegetables? Check this U of M Extension link for information on days to maturity and cold hardiness for various early-maturing vegetables: www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/vegetables/planting-vegetables-midsummer-fall-harvest/



Plant a tree. The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum states, "Late summer is a great time to plant evergreen trees and shrubs." Remember to water evergreens regularly all fall, continuing until the ground freezes for best results.

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

Buy 1# Get 1# Free

Hugo Lawn Mix

(Maximum value: \$5.00)

1 coupon per customer. Expires 8/31/16

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware

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

\$1.00 Off

40# Bag of 25-0-15 Fertilizer

(Limit 4)

1 coupon per customer. Expires 8/31/16

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware

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