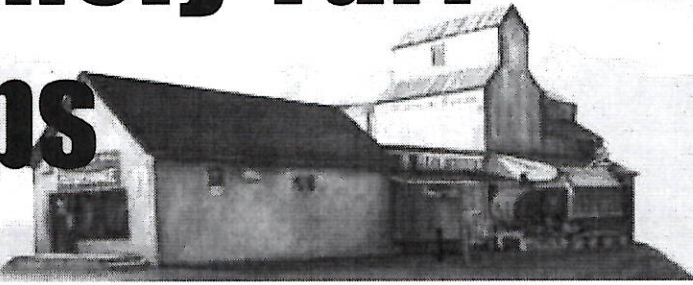


# Timely Turf Tips

## May 2024



**Spring is here.** The greenhouse is open with flowers, hanging baskets, patio pots, herbs and cool-season crops available. Peppers are available also and tomatoes will be in May 15. Check the website to see lists describing the numerous pepper and tomato varieties. When beginning to mow, remember that the University of Minnesota states that the best root growth occurs in the spring. Keep the mower height at 3" to allow healthier root development when compared to shorter mowing. Healthier roots will provide the grass a better capacity to withstand summer heat and drought. Check perennials to see if dividing is needed, which can stimulate new growth and improve the bloom of overcrowded plants.

### Lawn, Tree & Shrub 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. The mill has 50# bags of Crabgrass Preventer available. 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  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$ " 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. Save by using the coupon below.

May is Arbor month in Minnesota and a great time to think about fertilizing trees and shrubs. The plants will benefit the most if fertilizer is incorporated into the soil in early May before the main growth spurt occurs. If the soil is sandy, consider splitting the amount between two applications - one now and another one sometime during May 15 - May 31.



### 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.

Remember to thin those early seeded crops like radishes, leaf lettuce and spinach to allow the young plants room to grow. Tomatoes and peppers need to be planted late May or early June. They like warm soils for a good start.

### Greenhouse is open

May and early June hours are: Monday thru Friday - 9am to 7pm, Saturdays - 8am to 6pm, Sundays - 9am to 6pm

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**

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