



Vol. 5. No. 1.

Welcome to the start of our **5th year** publishing the **Timely Turf Tips** Newsletter! While Spring seemed to have arrived earlier than ever, it was followed by a cold spell that may have some of you concerned about early-sprouting perennials such as daffodils, tulips, irises and day lilies, etc. Given a little time, they should rebound just fine. Your lawn, however, may not have had time to fully emerge from dormancy; therefore we still recommend postponing any heavy raking, dethatching, mowing or plug aeration. There appears to be much less concern about snow mold this year, so light raking to remove winter accumulations of leaves, pet waste, sand, rocks or debris should be sufficient. Remember to **always sweep up** any debris that reaches paved areas to prevent run-off into storm drains or ditches. This practice is crucial to preventing phosphorus build up in our local lakes, rivers and wetlands.

A number of customers have related concerns about **vole damage** this year. Rake out the affected areas and then give them time for the grass to rebound. Areas that don't come back can be spot seeded (provided you didn't apply a crabgrass preventer). The best *prevention* for this problem is to be *proactive* by mowing low going into winter and trimming areas around trees and bushes where voles tend to hide. For a lot of information on how to combat these pests as well as general spring lawn care, log on to www.extension.umn.edu and "search" the topic you need. Another good source of spring information, including birds and their habitat, is www.learner.org/jnorth (select "signs of spring"). These web sites also dispel some of the "myths" or "wives tales" you may have heard of (and/or tried) to combat common lawn & garden problems such as the above-mentioned voles or **moles** that are prevalent this spring. As always, you can count on **Hugo Feed Mill** to provide you with *proven methods* for problem-solving these issues and more. Make sure to look for our upcoming "**Spring Problem Solver Sale**" flyer in **The Citizen Newspaper** coming out **May 2**, and **good through the end of that month!**

As in past **Timely Turf Tips** newsletters, we again urge you to **develop a lawn care file** where you can track areas of concern in your yard and/or strategies that worked well for you in the past. By re-visiting issues you made note of last fall, you have the advantage of knowing where to start this spring! **Hugo Feed Mill** can guide you down the path to a beautiful yard and provide you with multiple problem-solving solutions. For instance, there is still *plenty of time* to take **soil tests** if you are unsure how to start your lawn care regimen; or we can *customize* one of **four different crabgrass control products** to meet your needs. As we have in previous years, **Hugo Feed Mill will be sending out an email alert** for *timely application* of these crabgrass prevention products. Remember that applying at the right time will prevent the control components from being used up too soon, thereby allowing crabgrass to re-establish a strong foothold later in the season.

Because so many of these subjects depend on timing and customization to be effective, we always want to encourage you to contact us, specifically **Steve Marier** for guidance and with any questions you may have along the way. He can be reached via email (hugofeed@comcast.net) or phone (**651-429-3361**). Whichever method you use, it's a good idea to leave Steve a phone number where you can be reached at various times of the day. During this busy season he often needs to be away from his desk. He always tries to get back to you in as timely a manner as possible, and this will expedite that process.

Timely Tip:

Apply Crabgrass Prevention before soil temps reach 55-60° for several days (generally May 1-15) and water in. Timely application is imperative to season-long crabgrass control.

We want to thank you for continuing to email your lawn care questions and for continuing to subscribe to this newsletter. We will soon be launching a new endeavor that we hope will benefit you, our valued customers: "**Coming soon – a new website**" at www.hugofeedmill.com! Not only will you be able to access valuable information, but we will also post our *past Timely Turf Tips Newsletters* and *up coming store specials*! We will be making the announcement to you as soon as this feature is available! So "stay tuned" for exciting updates, and **as always, thank you for your continued patronage of the Hugo Feed Mill!**