

Timely Turf Tips August 2007

FINALLY--rain has come our way! But unless you were able to actively water throughout the long dry spell, you're probably wondering if there's any hope for your lawn. The University of Minnesota Extension Service maintains that recent rainfall may have stimulated regrowth of lawn grasses that have become dormant or are barely growing due to the drought. Close examination may reveal *tiny, new whitish-green blades* or *small, whitish "buds"* extending laterally from the base of the plant. With this evidence of new growth and the somewhat cooler temperatures lately, you'll want to **keep the lawn watered** and **consider applying ½ to 1 pound of nitrogen/1000 ft.²** This will encourage healthy growth to strengthen your turf for the upcoming winter months—and healthier grass next spring. Some of you may find significant areas of your lawn where the **whole grass plant is brown and dry**, possibly with a dark brown color near the base. If there is **no evidence of new grass blade growth** or **new root or lateral growth**, some form of lawn renovation is likely in order.

Luckily, **the last part of August through the middle of September** is **prime time** for renovation and reseeding/overseeding projects. You may already be considering lawn renovation for reasons other than the drought. If so, it's important to pinpoint the cause(s) for lawn failure and also to decide whether/how much of the project you'll undertake yourself. The U of MN Extension web site contains a lot of valuable information. Log on to www.extension.umn.edu and do a search under "lawn renovation". You may also want/need to enlist the aid of a "seasoned veteran" along the way. **Steve Marier at the Hugo Feed Mill** can guide your project from the *testing* and *planning* stages, to the *equipment rental* and *custom execution* stages, to the *completion* and *ongoing maintenance*. Steve can be reached at **651-429-3361** or email hugofeed@comcast.net. Other **customized services** at the Mill include: soil testing, aeration, de-thatching, hydro seeding and equipment rental. **August** is also a great time for applying **Gypsum** to hard compacted soil or clay and *aeration or dethatching of your lawn*. Please refer to August 2005 Timely Turf Tips for more in depth information on these subjects. **NOW, you can find out more about all of these topics and more on OUR NEW WEB SITE!** Visit www.hugofeedmill.com for a little **historical background**, essential information regarding our **products** and **services, Specials** and **Coupons** we offer, and **Timely Turf Tips** from the **last 3 years!** You'll be glad you took some time to **CHECK US OUT!**

Once you've decided on a plan of action for the fall, you'll want to *assess* your turf's nutritional requirements, *understand* fertilizers, know *how much* to apply and *when*, and *use proper application techniques*. **Hugo Feed Mill's** standard fall fertilizer recommendation is our **25-0-15**. But what's "standard" to us may not be readily understood by everyone reading this newsletter. A complete fertilizer contains three major components (corresponding with the 3 numbers on the bag) which are *always* listed in the same order: the **first number** indicates the *percentage* of **Nitrogen** in the bag; the **second** indicates the *percentage* of **Phosphorus**; and the **third** the *percentage* of **Potassium** (or "Potash"). Nitrogen is essential for vigorous growth and good green color; Phosphorus is necessary for good root development and promoting early plant vigor; and Potassium is required for physiological functions and for promoting disease resistance, drought tolerance and winter hardiness. Minnesota law mandates that unless a soil test determines the need for phosphorus, it can only be used when establishing new lawns. Hugo Feed Mill can facilitate this process and then interpret the results successfully. If you fertilize 2 or 3 times a year you will want to fertilize now and then again in mid to late October. If you fertilize just once a year you will want to fertilize the first week in September using our **25-0-15**. The correct timing and application rate for your specific lawn can make all the difference. This is also true for re-seeding/overseeding projects and herbicide applications.

September is a great time to address your weed problems. **Brushmaster, Weed Free Zone & Speed Zone** are effective herbicides for even hard to kill weeds like *Creeping Charlie*, *Clover* and *Poison Ivy*. Weed Free Zone and Speed Zone have the added bonus of allowing re-seeding in only 2 weeks. As always we highly recommend using only the *prescribed amounts* of

product under the *appropriate weather conditions* to help ensure these products' optimal performance. Overspray and too heavy application can actually *create* problems by killing plants you don't want to eliminate, and by browning the leaves of a weed without getting into the stem and doing away with it. But whatever your fall turf project plans, **Hugo Feed Mill** has the **products, services**, and **expertise** to pave the way to a healthy, beautiful lawn!

Thank You once again for subscribing to our newsletter and for your continued patronage—and *don't forget to log on to:*

www.hugofeedmill.com

Timely Turf Tip



"Ed says..."

Ed at Hugo Mill Outdoor Power says bring your mower blades in for sharpening so that when you set your mower deck lower for Fall (2 ½ to 3 in.) you won't damage turf preparing to weather another MN winter!

\$ 100 OFF



40# Bag
Hugo
Feed
Mill Brand
25-0-15
Fertilizer

(Limit 4 Bags)

Expires 9/30/07