



Timely Turf Tips May 2007

Although an early spring has enabled many of us to get ahead of schedule with lawn and garden projects, there are still numerous yard and landscape topics to be considered. For those who enjoy birds, you may want to set up feeders for orioles and hummingbirds, etc... who have returned and are nesting. Gardeners may have noticed their perennial beds becoming a bit crowded and considered thinning or dividing them. There are some very good reasons for doing this, including rejuvenation and stimulation of new growth, controlling the size of the plant, and increasing the number of plants. Here are a few things that can be done this time of year: Divide hostas, daylilies and ornamental grasses. Prune roses (remember your leather gloves and long sleeves!). Deadhead spring bulbs as they finish blooming (but leave foliage until it turns yellow). Trim spring blooming shrubs such as lilac and forsythia after flowers are done blooming. Pinch mums and asters back to 3-4". Stake perennials such as delphiniums and peonies before they've grown too tall, and to encourage thick, compact growth on pines and other needled evergreens, pinch the new candles (a term used for new growth on evergreens) to remove half of the new growth. The U of MN has a very informative web site to help you with this process: www.sustland.umn.edu. Gardeners can also make their lives easier by applying granular weed control (Treflan is a recommended product) to reduce weeding time in established beds, and fertilizer to give wanted plants a boost. Because our newsletter space is limited, we encourage you to augment this information by visiting one or more of the following web sites: www.extension.umn.edu; www.uwex.edu, www.weedalart.com. Not only can you find pertinent, localized information in more detail than we are able to relate, but you may also find that they dispel certain myths or "wives tales" that have long circulated about lawn and yard care.

For instance, a common prescription for combating dog spots in the lawn has been to give your dog tomato juice or cider vinegar to adjust the pH of their urine. This is based on the fallacy that it's the acid pH of the urine causing the brown spots. In reality, it's the *concentrated (toxic) levels of urea, or nitrogen* in the urine that kills the grass. This is evidenced by the brown, dead spots in the center that are surrounded by an outside ring of deeper, green grass resulting from nitrogen levels diluted enough to have a fertilizer effect. Because the problem is *not caused* by elevated pH levels in the urine, feeding additives to your pet will not "fix" your lawn, and at the same time may have an adverse effect on your dog's health. Better to train your dog to urinate in a non-visible location if possible; or **treat spots with ½ - 1 cup of gypsum/ft²**, hard rake out dead spots then **incorporate topsoil and seed** into the area, or **even cut out dead sod and replace** (but remember, if you applied crabgrass prevention the seed will not germinate).

If you haven't yet done so, you can still gain season-long control *and kill sprouted crabgrass* if you apply our crabgrass control **with Dimension**. This has been an effective, recommended combatant for a number of years, and *it is now available in a spray* with an application rate of 1 ½ oz. / 1000 ft². This product provides *post-emergent* as well as some *residual* crabgrass control. It can be applied up to 4 weeks later than other post emergence preventers due to its "reach back" ability, and is safe to use around trees and shrubs. Another new product effective on grassy and broadleaf weeds is **Q4**. This water-based formula combines 4 herbicides to produce a fast-acting, warm-weather applicable contact killer that *can be applied* throughout June, July and August (temperatures of up to 90°F). In addition, it's rain-fast within 6 hours. A component of **Q4**, **Weed Free Zone**, or its concentrated form **Speed Zone**, are among some of the most effective products we carry to combat tough weeds such as **clover, creeping charlie, poison ivy and thistle**. These and other pbi/GORDON Corporation products can be researched more thoroughly at www.pbigordon.com. Additionally, they list crucial information regarding sprayer calibration and application rates. Identifying your specific lawn's needs, following all label directions, and assessing weather conditions whenever you're applying lawn products will prevent problematic issues that can arise from over-spray and/or over-application. "More isn't necessarily better" aptly describes a responsible attitude towards lawn product application. Hugo Feed Mill can help answer some of the questions you may have with regard to proper lawn care for your particular turf situation.

Since we believe the best weed control is strong, healthy turf that won't allow weeds to take root, we recommend our 25-0-15 fertilizer. (25 % nitrogen, 0 % phosphorus, and 15 % potassium). The best advantage of this fertilizer is the 40% slow release nitrogen and low salt content of "sulfate of potash" that is easier on your lawn.

Call us, stop in, or email us today for all your lawn and yard care needs!

As always,

THANKS FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!!

651-429-3361 hugofeed@comcast.net

Timely Turf Tip:

Weed Free Zone & Speed Zone can provide effective weed control for your turf. Apply when temps are between 55-85 degrees and don't spray right after mowing or when weeds are under stress.

\$1⁰⁰ OFF



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

(Limit 4 Bags) Expires 6/16/07