

TIMELY TURF TIPS

October 2007

What a year! We went from a drought this summer to an abundance of rain this fall. With this in mind consistent *watering* of lawns, shrubs, perennials and less established trees is not as much of a concern this year. Customers have asked about whether to rake or mulch your leaves, (which is best?) Steve says mulching is fine provided the leaves are dry and not too thick at the time of mowing. Raking is best when there is a heavy drop of leaves and (or) if they are wet. Removing or mulching leaves may also help in preventing vole damage. Here are a few tips to act on now to prevent vole damage next spring, mow your lawn shorter, but not to point of scalping, trim around trees & shrubs, use of bait stations and traps which can be purchased at the Hugo Feed Mill. **It's time to apply your final 25-0-15 fertilizer for a greener lawn come spring.** See coupon below.

Now is a good time to get your perennials ready for winter. Start by looking for plant disease, *look closely* at your plants to identify any powdery mildew/leaf spot that may be present. If disease is found, cut back and remove the infected leaves and discard in trash. Cut back perennials such as peonies, and take the time to deadhead your perennials taking care to leave deadheads that the birds are still feeding from, this also helps to catch snow and give your gardens winter interest. There is still time for splitting hostas and planting spring bulbs such as tulips and daffodils. Also as the ground begins to freeze you can cover your perennials with mulch. Doing this too soon can cause problems with new growth under the mulch and also create homes for rodents. The U of M has a lot of great information on their extension site (www.extension.umn.edu) regarding proper care of perennials as well as tips for preparing your turf for winter—as does our own web site, www.hugofeedmill.com -check it out today!

Part of your October preparations should include an in-depth look at your yard and "where it's at" in terms of attributes/detriments. It will be a useful tool to actually draw a map of your lawn addressing problem areas of crabgrass (easily identified as it is dead and brown). By doing this it takes the guess work out of where to apply crabgrass preventer next spring. Control of **Creeping Charlie** can still be achieved now by applying herbicides during midday sun, provided temperatures are at 60° and evening temperatures stay above 45°. This can best be accomplished with these products: Speed Zone, Weed Free Zone and Brushmaster. The rain and clouds lately have simmered down the Boxelder Bugs & Asian Beetles, but when the sun comes back out so will the bugs. We carry several concentrates for large areas and easy ready-to-use sprays for smaller areas to combat these pesky insects.

People are wondering if there is still time to seed this year? The answer is yes, dormant seeding can be done at this time. You want to fertilize and seed the same as you would in the spring or fall making sure to plant late enough that the seed does not germinate. Remember if you dormant seed you will have to attack crabgrass problems differently. Contact Steve Marier & the Hugo Feed Mill for more information and guidance with this and many other projects you may be considering! THANK YOU for Continuing to patronize our store and to read our newsletter. Remember, we are always

looking for new newsletter letter topics, so please forward us your questions/concerns!

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TIMELY TURF TIP:

Mow your grass shorter before Winter and thoroughly rake/mulch to lessen the chance of snow mold in Spring.



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

\$1⁰⁰ OFF

(Limit 10 bags) Expires 11/20/07