Cool wet weather has the yard growing again. Summertime drought can cause lawns to go dormant, but with recent rains the grass is no longer stressed and now is a great time to prepare the lawn for next year. Fall fertilizing and weed spraying are two ways to help beautify the yard now and into next year. Use the coupons below and save.

#### **Lawn Care Tips for September:**

- It is recommended that you lower the cutting height of the lawnmower now and keep the grass 2 ½ to 3 inches tall with regular mowing. The University of Minnesota Extension suggests this height for fall, with a gradual decrease to 2 to 2 ½ inches over the last two to three mowings of the year. This decrease at the end of fall should aid in leaf removal and reduce the chance of snow mold next spring.
- Thin patches in the lawn can be reseeded through September 20. Fall weather conditions of longer, cooler nights and more expected rainfall give grass seedlings a better start toward becoming established. Come see us at the mill for advice and seed.



- There is still time to apply a fall application of fertilizer if you have not done that very important lawn care task. Whether you apply one, two, or three applications per year, all of the U of M Extension's MN home lawn fertility programs recommend a fall application around Labor Day. Apply your fall fertilizer at a rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. We recommend Hugo Feed Mill's brand 25-0-15, with 50% slow-release nitrogen for a longer feeding period. A 40# bag covers 10,000 square feet and there is a coupon attached below.
- Now is the best time to apply broadleaf weed control products like SpeedZone and Weed Free Zone for dandelion, creeping Charlie, and clover control. Fall growing conditions allow the product to be taken up by the entire plant effectively dispersing the herbicide all through the plant, resulting in fewer pesky weeds next spring.

#### **Garden Care Tips for September:**

- Remove any diseased plant material from the flower/ vegetable garden and dispose it in the trash, not the compost bin. Overripe produce should also be removed to discourage insects and other unwanted guests.
- The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum notes that fall planting of trees and scrubs can be done now. Remember to water right up to freeze and consider mulching the new plantings. Fall pruning of trees that bleed, like maples, birch, black walnut, honey locust and mountain ash is mentioned.
- Also noted is dividing some perennials in early fall. Good candidates are tall phlox, peonies, and daylilies.
- Shop for spring flowering bulbs. Planting time is mid-September through mid-October. Bone meal is available at the mill.

Previous issues of Timely Turf Tips newsletters are available at our website: www.hugofeedmill.com

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