

Four All Seasons all-natural fertilizer offers benefits

One of today's buzzwords is "green." You read about green products in newspapers and magazines and you hear about green homes; green cleaning products; green energy; and green, natural and organic foods.

But right here in our back yard, a Holstein couple has developed and are marketing a green fertilizer. Four years ago Delayne and Anne Johnson decided the timing was perfect to develop a fertilizer made from all natural products.

Four All Seasons LLC opened its doors in January 2004 and is now available at 13 Iowa retailers. The main ingredients are dry distillers grain, soybean meal and blood meal. The fertilizer has low levels of phosphorous that will not pollute waterways, streams or lakes. It is completely biodegradable, won't burn lawns and is 100 percent safe for children and pets.

"Four All Seasons (FAS) is environmentally friendly," said FAS part-time salesman Jack Hogue of Odebolt. "We like it because it works and is safe. As a farmer, I like it because it's made from byproducts of ethanol and helps our prices."

Hogue became familiar with FAS last year, when he purchased the product to use at Prairie Pedlars.

"We receive five or six different garden publications and for the past

year and a half everything has been green, green, green. We had read about Four All Seasons' products and decided to try it on our grass walkways and flower beds at Prairie Pedlar. We saw a difference right away and so did our customers," said Hogue.

"Late last year I asked Delayne if he'd like to have a booth at the Siouxland Garden Show in South Sioux City, Neb., (March 14 and 15). He responded that he would but he didn't have a salesman. He asked me to call him back. I did a couple more times but he still didn't have a salesman. So I asked him if he thought I could do the job on a part-time basis.

"I started in January and have been working to get lawn care and retail garden centers to market it for us. We've taken the product to a couple of farm shows where people can touch and feel it; we've even had people taste it," said Hogue.

"Our fertilizer doesn't burn lawns like petroleum-based or urea-based products and it doesn't have an unpleasant smell because there is no manure in it," said Anne. "It is a multi-application product that can be used on lawns, vegetables, plants and garden flowers. Tomatoes respond especially well when fertilized with Four All Seasons."

FAS was tested at the 2004, 2005

and 2006 Iowa State University turf grass trials. Like the Prairie Pedlar, the city of Ames parks and recreation department have used the product with favorable results.

Hogue reported his daughter Janna has a degree in horticulture and has tried the product on nearly dead houseplants and some three-year old shrubs. She told her dad that plants responded in a week's time and that the shrubs fertilized with FAS grew 18-inches more than the shrubs that weren't fertilized with FAS.

"Customers like it because you don't have to worry about getting it on your skin. It's a good, safe product. It's kid and pet safe; they can play on the lawn right after you spread it," said Anne.

Hogue said, "Most organic or natural products are usually a little higher. With Four All Seasons you only use it on your lawn in the spring and fall versus four times a year for a lot of other fertilizers. The cost per year is pretty close to petroleum-based products and it's a lot safer. You don't have to worry that kids or pets will get sick or have allergy reactions; it won't hurt birds, butterflies or bees; and it won't burn your lawn."

Four All Seasons offers two varieties of fertilizer: Bio-Source 9:1:1 and Bio-Source 11:1:1. Each

requires only two applications each growing season, compared to the three or four applications recommended for petroleum-based

fertilizers. The products are available in five-, 30- and 40-pound bags.

To get more information on FAS products and their September sales

campaign contact Delayne Jack Hogue, any GHG or call the company's website at fourallseasons.net.



Four All Seasons: Jack Hogue of Odebolt is a part-time salesman for Four All Seasons natural fertilizers. Hogue said, "We tested the Four All Season 100 percent natural fertilizers on gardens and lawns at Prairie Pedlar last year and were amazed with the results. We like it works and, number one, it's safe. As a farmer I like the fact that it's made from byproducts of the ethanol industry and that helps our prices." For more pictures, go to www.idacountycourier.com (Courier photo by Deb Loger)