



# Grass Roots

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## Turf Talk 2014.3

We hope that all of you have dried out from

the incredible amounts of rain we have had. Other than watering in a fertilizer application or dealing with new sod, we cannot find any reason to be using supplemental irrigation at this time. We have included an article that deals with irrigation. It is similar to what we have said in the past, but hearing it from another source is often helpful.

We are currently applying our turf insect control application, the goal being to keep the white grub populations in check. While our expectation is that the product will continue to work well, it is still a good idea to be vigilant in late August and early September when we usually notice outbreaks if they are going to occur. We have also seen nutsedge lately. Nutsedge and certain weeds benefit from the excessive moisture. We will continue to spray what we can as we see it.

It is time to think about overseeding if you have areas of turf that did not do well last winter. Our process is to double-plug the impacted area, power-rake if necessary, and overseed with an appropriate seed variety. Even if you are not overseeding, fall is yet another opportunity to aerate your yard. The schedule fills up fast, so [contact us](#) now.

The granular fertilizer products and the grub control product we use require irrigation in order to work. If not irrigated, they will degrade over time and will work less effectively. So, why do we usually say wait 24 hours before watering? Herbicides that we might have sprayed for weed control have a "rain-fast" period. This is the time period in which any form of irrigation may hinder the product action. The "rain-fast" period for most products we use is between one and twenty-four hours. In our experience, even in less than optimal "rain-fast" intervals, weed control is still

very good. There is no need to panic if it rains after we apply products to your turf. Our advice is to wait seven to ten days before making any judgments as to the efficacy of weed control.



## Reminders

1. Schedule turf renovation or aeration & overseeding.
2. Schedule irrigation system review.
3. Apply disease & insect spray to trees & shrubs.
4. Vote CM's as the Best of Omaha!



According to the Irrigation Association (IA), "Smart Irrigation Month is an IA initiative to increase awareness of the value of water use...and grow demand for water-saving products, practices and services." In the "Water Wisely" article below, the IA shares

some simple tips to improve water efficiency for your turf.

Today's irrigation systems include sophisticated controllers that allow you to easily adjust watering schedules to fit different needs.

**Get in the zone.** Schedule each individual zone in your irrigation system to account for type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and soil in that section. Different zones will almost always need different watering schedules.

**Consider soil type.** Type of soil determines how quickly water can be absorbed without runoff. Watering more than soil can absorb causes runoff and waste.

**Don't send water down the drain.** Set sprinklers to water plants, not your driveway, sidewalk, patio or buildings.

**Water only when needed.** Saturate root zones and let the soil dry. Watering too much and too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.



**Water at the best time.** Watering during the heat of the day may cause losses of up to 30 percent due to evaporation. Prevent water loss by watering when the sun is low or down, winds are calm and temperatures are cool — typically early morning.

**Water more often for shorter periods.** For example, if you have 4 zones and you typically water for 15 minutes each zone with a start time at 5 AM, you might change your system start times to 4:00 AM, 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM and have each zone only run 5 minutes. In both scenarios, the system runs for a total of 60 minutes that day, however, using shorter intervals lets soil absorb more water.

**Adapt watering to the season.** Familiarize yourself with the settings on your irrigation controller and adjust the watering schedule regularly based on seasonal weather conditions. Or invest in a smart controller so your system can make these changes automatically.



CM's is excited to announce its participation in the 2015 Best of Omaha competition! Voters can select CM's A Cut Above as the Best **Landscape Lighting, Landscaping Service, Lawn Care, Lawn Irrigation & Sprinklers, and Tree Service** company in Omaha. That's right, you can vote for us (and we hope you do) in five different categories!

Simply go to [www.bestofomaha.com](http://www.bestofomaha.com) anytime between July 1 and August 20, 2014 and vote for CM's!



Ask The Arborist

## What should I plant if I want a small, flowering tree?

In a sunny location, Ivory Silk Tree Lilac is a great choice. Its mature size is about 20' tall and 15' wide. The white flowers bloom shortly after the shrub varieties of lilac, usually mid-June. It is drought tolerant and has very few pest or disease issues. There are also several newer varieties of flowering crabapples that feature small fruit size (1/4" diameter) and have great resistance to cedar apple rust and other common leaf diseases that affect the older varieties of crabapples.

The Royal Raindrops Crabapple has beautiful red leaves throughout the season, pink flowers in the spring, and small ornamental fruit in the fall.

Red Bud trees are a great choice for a location that has a lot of shade. Their purple flowers bloom very early in the spring. The tree typically has an interesting branching structure as well, which can add some great winter interest to the landscape. Red Bud trees are available in both single stem and clump varieties. They will typically have a mature size of 20'x20'. Another good option for a shady location is a Serviceberry tree. They will do best if they get about 4 hours of sun. This tree is usually sold in clump form. The white flowers usually bloom in April. The berries of this tree will ripen in June and are edible and delicious. The serviceberry tree also features beautiful fall colors of red, orange, and yellow. Its mature size is about 20'x20'.



Royal Raindrops Crabapple



We would like to introduce you to Cory Dempsey. Cory has been with CM's since the spring of 2014 as an irrigation technician and he is already making a lasting impression on our clients! Here is a sample of what our clients have to say about Cory:

"Cory was amazing and I couldn't be more pleased with the new addition to the CM's irrigation family."- Dorothy P.

"I was really impressed with Cory's work. He is a real asset to your company."- Orv A.

"Cory was just great! I have never had anyone from your company be anything but kind."- Mary Alice H.

"Cory did a great job for us. Great young man!"- Mike H.

Courtney E. spotted Cory, hard at work, taking time to help her son fill up his watering can. She shared this photo and said, "Now THAT'S customer service!"

Our crews appreciate your compliments. If you have a moment to provide feedback to our crew, please [contact us](#) or [post a review](#).



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