



# Grass Roots

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Volume 2014 Issue 5

## Turf Talk 2014.2

The calendar says that it is spring; and, yet, we have customers mowing

for the first time the last week of April. Lawns that were seeded in the fall may have been especially vulnerable to winterkill. For profoundly damaged areas, overseeding now is recommended. If you have some damage, and we have not been on your lawn yet, please call us to come out to look at the extent of turf damage. Smaller areas in bluegrass lawns will tend to fill in throughout the season, and overseeding can be delayed until fall. If immediate turf coverage is required, we can seed rye grass that will germinate quickly. As long as the summer does not get too hot too early, the rye grass should survive until you can overseed with other varieties in the fall. Spring aeration will also be helpful.

We are sensitive to the fact that customers change service providers because of poor weed control. Weeds grow right along with desirable turf; and depending upon turf varieties and climate, they sometimes grow even better than the turf.

Without question the best weed prevention is a thick lawn. A thin lawn provides space for weeds to germinate. Spraying the weeds at the correct time of year will eliminate the weed. Failing to fill its space with something desirable simply invites the return of the same or a different weed. We continue to stress overseeding to build up turf density. Mowing the cool season grasses high will result in better weed control as well.

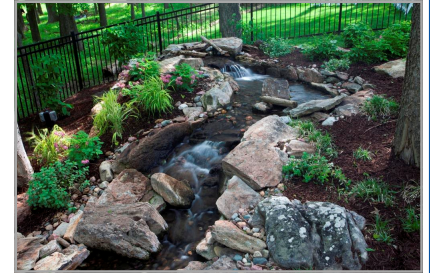
It is no surprise that the weed we get the most calls about is the dandelion. We have been unsuccessful in convincing most of you that the greens are edible, even though they are. The optimal control of dandelions occurs in the fall. If we have been caring for your lawn, we expect to see continued improvement in plant reduction. If you are new to us, the first year may be a test of your patience if control has been poor in the past. We will spray what we see when we are on your yard. We are on your yard at four to five week intervals. It is likely that germination will occur between our visits. If you are surrounded by vacant lots or properties that are not cared for, your situation will be impacted by those factors as well.



There are many weeds that grow well here. With our best efforts, yours and CM's, we can minimize the impact these weeds have on your turf.

## Splish! Splash!

Do you enjoy the sound of a little fall of rain, babbling brooks, or the splishing and splashing of wildlife? If so, a water feature is the perfect addition to your landscape!



Water features are available in all different types of shapes, sizes and styles. They can come with ponds, or without, and they can have waterfalls or bubbling boulders. And the options don't stop there. Since they are created with natural stone, every water feature is unique.



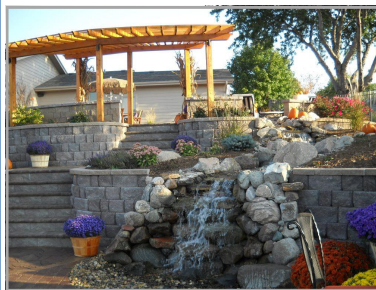
The basic function of the water feature is the same regardless of the type. They all work on a pump that pushes water through the system. Some can also be installed with an auto-fill element that will fill the feature when the water gets too low. It is usually tapped into an irrigation system. Water features can require little

maintenance and can be run well into the fall months.

There are benefits to each type of water feature depending on what suits your needs. When installed with the proper pump, filter, fish and plants, ponds have their own ecosystem that they use to keep their environment in balance. Pondless waterfalls are a great option if you want the beautiful site of a water feature, but you have limited



space or a smaller budget in mind. Best of all, if you change your mind later, you can add a pond. Bubbling boulders are among the most flexible of the options as they can be constructed in most areas.



[Contact CM's for your new water feature!](#)



## Reminders

1. Plant spring annuals
2. Schedule sprinkler turn-on services
3. Sign up for our 4-step tree care program.
4. Call our landscape designers to plan a landscape for your Mother's Day gift— Gift certificates also available!



## Why are my trees and plants a little less green and a lot more bare this year?

There could be several reasons why, but one of the most common culprits is the bagworm.

well as some deciduous bushes and trees. They can be identified by closely inspecting your plants and looking for little hanging bundles of plant material like leaves, twigs and needles. They travel by an effect called "ballooning," using wind to help them swing their way to neighbor host plants by a silken strand.

Bagworms defoliate evergreens as

Less severe infestations can be addressed by plucking the bagworms off the branches and destroying them in soapy water or burning them. Insecticides can control more severe infestations.

We usually start to see bagworm activity in June; however, preventive treatments are often applied in May. Consider treatment if you know you have a tree or shrub that is susceptible to bagworms or has had bagworms in the past. Check the ground for tiny caterpillars (1cm big) that may have already started to spin their bags. Pluck dormant bags in the fall and early spring before hatching because one bagworm encases hundreds of eggs and damage can happen quickly! CM's offers a systemic insecticide as a preventive as well as the control spray.



We would like to introduce you to Rafael Degante. Rafael has been with CM's since the spring of 2012 as a sprinkler technician. We could tell you more about Rafael, but we'll just share what other customers have told us about him:

"Just a note to let you know how professional the repair man was in fixing the sprinkler line. He showed me the problem, explained how he'd fix it and ran the system for me to see it was working correctly." -Mike K

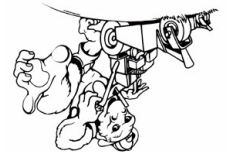
"Rafael did a great job finding my lost sprinkler heads and fixing one that was leaking and was done by 9:00. I was so happy with the job he did I had to let you know."- Lorena H.

"Never had a tech out that seemed to care so much. He's a keeper and I hope he will come again if I have any problems."- Erin E.

"He is very knowledgeable, efficient, and friendly." -Steve W.

"Rafael is a very polite young man. He did a good job and cleaned everything up."- Helena K.

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



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