



# Grass Roots

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## At Your Service!

You may hear some new voices when you call CM's. We are pleased to introduce you to our customer service representatives, Patti Hermanek and CeCe Pecha. Patti and CeCe started in April and May respectively, our industry's busiest time of the year, and they hit the ground running. They dove right in, answering your inquiries, scheduling your sprinkler repairs, and providing administrative support to our crews and sales staff, vital to day-to-day operations.



Patti Hermanek



CeCe Pecha

Both Patti and CeCe come to CM's with an abundance of customer service experience and we look forward to them sharing their insights and ideas so we can continue to provide you with the best customer service possible. Welcome Patti and CeCe!

## Lighten Up

It's difficult to believe, but fall will be approaching soon, and with that comes earlier sunsets and darker evenings. Don't be left in the dark; lighten up your night with landscape lighting. Strategically placed lighting is essential to extending the use and enjoyment of any outdoor space, as well as accenting plant materials, walls, patios, and architecture. It also adds beauty, safety, and security to your nightscape and to your home.



CM's offers professional installation with a 10-15 year warranty on LED fixtures. The products we use provide a consistent, warm white coloration within a single product line, and finishes can be customized for your individual preferences. LED fixtures also have the following benefits:

- ◊ Use 75% less electricity than incandescent and halogen lamps
- ◊ No bulbs to change
- ◊ Fixtures are rated for 40,000-50,000 hours of use
- ◊ More versatility in system layout.



Illuminate your landscape and patios while creating a safer environment for your friends and family. [Contact CM's](#) today for an estimate!

## Fall Renovations

Whether you need a complete turf renovation or just an overseeding to increase turf density, now is the time to make that decision. This is the optimal time to begin the process with power raking (in the case of a renovation), double-plug aeration, and seeding with one of many quality turf cultivar varieties that we offer. If you are in doubt about what might help your yard, please call us so that we can schedule a site visit to determine the best approach. Cool season grasses can take between three and four weeks to germinate, so seeding at this time of year gives the new grass plants the best opportunity to "harden off" before the first killing frost of the year. Remember, seed needs to be kept moist throughout the germination process. It is necessary to irrigate seeded areas multiple times a day to keep the seed bed from drying out. Factors that can increase or decrease the irrigation requirements include temperature, rainfall, and wind.

The schedule for this work fills up quickly, and our goal is to complete renovations and seedings by mid-September to achieve optimal results; so [contact CM's](#) today!



## Reminders

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



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!



# What tree should I plant that will grow fast and not make a mess?

## Ask The Arborist

This is the question we get asked more than any other. Homeowners enjoy the benefits of a fast growing tree. The quicker they mature, the quicker they increase property value and save the homeowner money on utilities by shading the house in the summer and providing a windbreak in the winter. However, homeowners do not want the hassle of picking up debris from the yard or cleaning out gutters. There is just a short list of trees that fit those specifications such as the Autumn Blaze Maple, Honeylocust, and Autumn Purple Ash. So why not plant a tree from this short list?



Northern Catalpa— Photo courtesy of [retreenebraska.unl.edu](http://retreenebraska.unl.edu)

If an urban forest consists of only a few species of trees, the community forest as a whole is much more susceptible to pests and disease. A great example of this issue is the damage we will be seeing from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Ash trees have been planted in great volume throughout Omaha and the surrounding areas because they grow quickly and do not drop any seed or debris. But, with EAB moving closer to Omaha each year, we are now looking at losing thousands of trees from our urban forest. Omaha alone has approximately 6,400 Ash trees just in right of ways. This number does not include Ash trees planted in parks, in other public spaces, or on residential property. So, in the coming years, our community will be paying to either treat or remove 6,400(+) trees.

All tree species have different strengths and weaknesses. The key to having a sustainable urban forest is to plant a diverse group of trees, making it less susceptible to insect and disease. EAB illustrates the fact that just because a tree is problem-free at the moment, there is no guarantee that it won't be affected by a new imported pest or disease. There is no guarantee that something won't come along and harm our maple trees.

That being said, your choices continue to narrow if you have automatically eliminated "messy trees". The best way to decide on a tree for your property is to start by looking around your neighborhood to see what your neighbors have planted and mark those trees off your list to bring diversity to the neighborhood forest. Additionally, most trees that produce seed only produce for a short period of time.



Baldcypress— Photo courtesy of [retreenebraska.unl.edu](http://retreenebraska.unl.edu)

Consider some vintage, hardy trees that are a little on the messy side:

- ◇ Ohio Buckeye: Greenish-yellow flowers produced in large clusters in spring.
- ◇ Northern Catalpa: Large, white, trumpet-shaped flowers bloom in late spring. It has an oval-shaped and narrow crown with large, bright green, heart-shaped leaves and bean-like pods. It does well in Nebraska soils.
- ◇ American Sycamore: Large shade tree with exfoliating bark. The sycamore's patches of white inner bark stand out, creating a beautiful scene in the winter.
- ◇ Baldcypress: A deciduous conifer. The baldcypress withstands wet areas, compacted soils and is also drought tolerant.

Let's make August "Messy Tree Appreciation Month" and [contact a CM's licensed arborist](#) to select your messy tree!



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