



Grass Roots

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Turf Talk 2014.6

We began applying the final fertilizer application of the year the week of October 19th, and we anticipate finishing the week of Thanksgiving.

This year was one of the best turf years we have seen. We had more than enough moisture throughout the year, and temperatures remained moderate throughout the growing season. As a rule, there was very little in the way of turf disease or insect damage. Hopefully, you were able to spend a great deal of time on your lawns.

There is still work to do. Turf will continue to grow into November, and whatever grows must be mowed. Continue to mow regularly at 3 to 3.5 inches; it is best for cool season grasses. We want to avoid having long grass that lays over under the weight of snow, causing problems in the spring. Rake leaves up or mulch them on a regular basis. I spoke with a customer today who had a large accumulation of leaves that remained on the ground for a long time. When the leaves were raked, the grass below had died. Thankfully, we can dormant seed that area.

Speaking of dormant seeding, it will commence shortly. We have been waiting for a drop in the soil temperatures to prevent germination.

Thank you for trusting us, once again, with part of your investment in your home.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Temperatures are dropping, there are fewer hours of light in the day, and Thanksgiving plans are being made. We have another year for which we are thankful.

We wish a heartfelt happy Veterans Day to our veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. We are so very grateful for you. Your service and sacrifice are immeasurable.

Thank you to our own veterans: Dave Searcy and Chuck Monico Sr.

We are thankful for our employees. The employees of CM's continue to make a commitment to **EXPECT EXCELLENCE** from themselves and from each other. Their energy and commitment to the company and its clients sets CM's apart from other companies. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. A special thank you to Frank Mac and Jim Vohs, who joined the CM's team this year. We appreciate your efforts to achieve a smooth transition as we joined forces.

Thank you to our clients. We owe our success to you. You are the reason we exist and your continued trust and support is our foundation. You make it possible to provide stable employment for our employees. Because of you we are able to support community, educational, and charitable efforts. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. We wish you a happy holiday season!

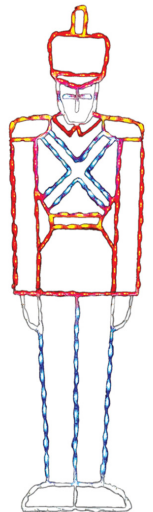
Deck the House

From candy canes and trains to stockings and Santa's sleigh,

CM's has the décor to spruce up your home this holiday season!

The professionals at CM's offer state-of-the-art designs, installation, removal and storage for residential and commercial properties with energy efficient LED lights in a variety of colors and styles for any decorating plan.

A CM's representative will assist you in selecting the light you would like to display. Wreaths and garland or presents with bows and toy soldiers, the possibilities go on and on. Remember CM's also removes and stores the lights as well.



[Contact CM's to arrange your design and installation!](#)



Reminders

1. Schedule fall landscape clean-up and maintenance.
2. Schedule fall bulb planting.
3. Schedule holiday light installation.
4. Mark perimeters for snow removal.



Ask The Arborist

Why and when do I want to train my tree?

Training a tree can be a process that takes a few years, but in the end it can save a lot of money. By training a tree when it is young, we can give it the best possible framework as it matures. Co-dominant leaders, poor branch attachment, and crossing branches are a few examples of structural defects that will likely lead to large limb failure and decay. These issues can be dangerous and pricey to take care of when dealing with a mature tree, but there is less risk when the tree is young.



Quaking Aspen

A tree trained by a professional arborist will have improved structural stability and aesthetics, reducing maintenance costs and corrective pruning. Training will increase the tree's longevity by avoiding large pruning cuts to a mature tree which puts the tree at risk for decay.



Ornamental Pear

The process of training a tree begins with removing any unhealthy branches; those that are broken, diseased, or rubbing against another branch. Once all unhealthy limbs have been removed, we can develop a central leader. After a central leader has been selected, we remove any branches that will be competing with the central leader based on size and location. This will prevent a co-dominant leader situation. Next we select a lowest permanent branch. It is important to note that as a tree grows higher, the current height of existing branches will stay the same (the trunk will put on new growth at the top but will not elongate itself). Once the lowest permanent branch has been selected, we can then determine which branches will be scaffold branches and which will be temporary branches.

Generally speaking, training can be done at any time throughout the year; however, branch selection can be easier during the winter months. Actually, there are benefits to pruning most trees in the winter too. When trees are dormant and the leaves have fallen, we can see the frame work of the tree more clearly.

This allows us to determine which branches may be too close to others or which branches may present future problems if they continue to grow in a certain direction. At this time we can also easily remove any branches that may be crossing or rubbing. When pruning takes place during the winter months there is less chance of transmitting diseases (which are present during the spring and summer months) from one plant to another. Certain insects can be attracted to fresh pruning cuts during the growing season, but they are not active during the winter months.

While the majority of trees and shrubs respond well to winter pruning, there are a handful of trees that will "bleed," or ooze excessively come spring if they have been pruned during the dormant season. This does not actually cause the tree much harm, but it can be messy and should be avoided by pruning the trees during the regular growing season. Pruning birch, dogwood, elm, maple and walnut trees while dormant should be avoided.



Linden

[Contact a CM's licensed arborist](#) to train your young trees.



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