



Grass Roots

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Turf Talk 2015.02



We are scheduled to begin the second round of fertilizer applications, pre-emergent application with fertilizer, the first full week of May. We will also

be spraying any weeds we see, recognizing that optimal weed control occurs in the fall; and the best weed prevention (it is broken record time again) is a dense stand of turf.

We have not seen much winter-damaged turf, in spite of the relatively dry winter. Small bare or thin areas will often fill in over the course of a growing season. If they do not, overseeding is in order for the fall.

I wonder how often most of us actually think about how we use our yards and the impact that use has upon the turf we try to maintain. I have seen my yard go from playground to low use to playground again. How we use our yards dictates how we try to maintain them. Use dictates types of cultivars we try to grow, irrigation, fertilization, disease and insect monitoring-basically all manner of turf support. Maturing landscapes have an impact on turf. As trees grow, the density of the canopy increases and light that reaches the turf is reduced, sometimes resulting in thinner lawns. Helping you maximize the use of your turf areas is our priority. We are happy to meet with you anytime to address any of these issues with you.

Some reminders:

- ⇒ Mow high through the season
- ⇒ Keep your blades sharp
- ⇒ Make sure your irrigation system is in working order before you need it.



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 your Mother's Day gift.

Get a head start on spring!

Clients are often surprised how early we begin installing projects.

This hardscape project is a great example of work that is able to be done in cold temperatures. By planning ahead, this project was able to begin in early March. These clients were able to avoid missing out on precious spring outdoor time and they are able to enjoy their fabulous outdoor living space right now!



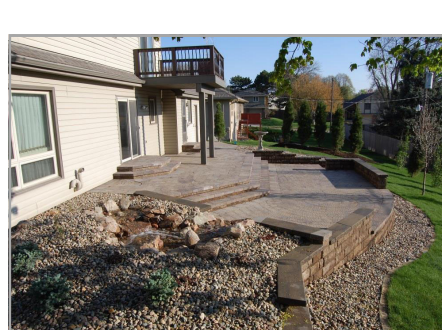
Before: This homeowner had a standard walkout from their kitchen and garage onto a small paver patio. Beyond the patio was a steep hill which limited the usable space of the yard.



CM's and the homeowners put their heads together to come up with a plan that would increase the functionality of their yard and allow them to enjoy more time outdoors.



During: Crews had their work cut out for them as they completely renovated the area, occasionally weathering very cold temperatures.



After: This project defines transformation! A multi-tiered patio expanded the usefulness of the outdoor living space. The removal of a tree opened the space up and the addition of various perennials and a pondless water feature brings even more beauty to it all.

[Contact CM's to schedule your consultation!](#)





Ask The Arborist

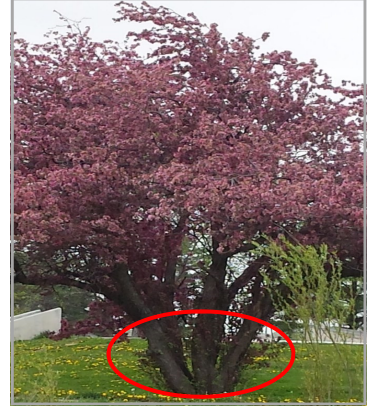
What is an effective way to eliminate sucker growth?

Sucker(basal shoot)

A fast growing shoot or stem that grows underground from a plant that causes the tree to weaken by draining water and nutrients.

Why do they occur?

- Suckering is a tree's self-defense mechanism in response to stress to the following:
 - Drought
 - Over fertilization
 - Excessive watering
- Due to an exposed graft union (the area where 2 plants have grown together for hardiness benefits).



Removal

Prune shoots after they are identified as they grow rapidly and become large quickly.

- Remove small suckers by hand using a twisting motion. The lack of clean cut makes it more difficult for new suckers to grow
- Larger shoots may require hand pruners, loppers or even a hand saw. Be careful not to damage the bark. When making a cut, get as close to the ground or even underground if possible. Open wounds exposed to sunlight can trigger more sprouting.
 - For shoots that are sprouting feet away from the base of the tree, mow over slowly or use a sharp spade to dig out the tree root that is causing the issue. Be careful not to damage nearby healthy roots.
 - Mechanical ways of shoot removal are the safest and most effective methods. If you prefer chemical controls, contact a licensed arborist for a recommendation.



Prevention

Most trees are susceptible to suckering if they are exposed to stress but you will find certain trees are prone to suckering such as Crabapple, Linden, Maple, Lilac, and any fruit trees that are grown on a graft union. Although suckering is inevitable for some trees, there are steps you can take to help minimize or prevent them all together.

- Check the root ball of the tree when you are purchasing it to be sure the tree is planted at the proper depth.
- Make sure new trees do not have sucker growth already
- Water and fertilizer at recommended levels.
- Keep two inches or more of mulch around the tree to help stop sprouts from coming up through the ground.



[Contact a CM's licensed arborist](#) to evaluate your tree.



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