



Grass Roots

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A+ for Service and Expertise



CM's is pleased to announce the addition of Jim Vohs to the irrigation division as of March 10.

Jim comes to CM's after more than 20 years of owning his own irrigation company and has over 25 years experience in the industry. He has experience with Hunter, Rainbird, Toro and Weathermatic systems, as well as residential and commercial layouts. Jim is also a Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC) of the Irrigation Association. That's right—CM's now has 2 of the 19 CIC's in Nebraska! We are happy to have Jim on the team—Welcome Jim!



Reminders

1. Schedule Sprinkler Turn On with CM's
2. Sharpen Mower Blades
3. Spring Mowing Height: 3" or higher
4. Apply pre-emergent weed control to landscape beds once soil temperatures reach 50-55 degrees.
5. Begin treating flowering crab apple trees for cedar apple rust.

Turf Talk 2014.1

Spring is here

officially, and the urge to get out and do something in the yard is overwhelming to some of you. What to do is an important question to ask. We have had a rough winter as far as turf is concerned. Cold, wind, and little snow can have a detrimental effect on turf, especially fall-seeded areas. We receive a great deal of information on the impact of winter from the golf course superintendents who have substantially greater investments in turf than most homeowners, and they have seen damage due to a lack of snow cover and exposure to cold temperatures and wind. It is likely that some of you will experience similar damage. Patience is always a virtue; and this year, you may need a double dose. Please give your turf the opportunity to green up a little before going after it with a mower to stimulate growth or clean up the yard. If there is some damage from the winter, additional foot traffic will only compound the stress the turf is experiencing while trying to recover. If spring rain does not occur soon, supplemental irrigation will be needed to help recovery. If you suspect winter damage, please call us to assess the severity. Quite often, there are things that you can do rather easily once you have assessed the damage. Lightly raking, and I cannot stress the word "lightly" enough, the area in question can assist in the growth of turf. Once again, patience is the key word.



With respect to fertilizer, we time our initial application to soil temperatures, not air temperature, that reach at least 50 degrees. You might see other companies fertilizing before us. However, we are confident that our practices have stood the proverbial test of time, and find that the process is governed by the laws of nature and cannot be rushed. In the end, it saves everyone time and money. We will apply pre-emergents at the correct time. We will use Starter fertilizer on some of the recently seeded lawns that might need some spring assistance. **Pre-emergent does not distinguish between weed growth and new seed growth; therefore if you are overseeding your yard on your own, please let us know so that we can substitute another product for pre-emergent.** We are happy to discuss your individual concerns as they arise.

The science of turf grass management is constantly evolving. We have said before that we are fortunate to have a partner in the University of Nebraska whose research we use to support you. Throughout the year, we receive frequent updates on their findings that we can apply to our own practices for your benefit.

We still recommend aerating your turf twice a year—spring and fall. So if you are not scheduled, please do so now.

We are excited about the beginning of a new season. It gives us a chance to see how much we have grown as professionals. We look forward to the opportunity to serve you and help you enjoy your lawns throughout the year.



What would an article be without harping on mowing height? **MOW HIGH ALL YEAR LONG !!!** Cool season grasses will do better and you will crowd out weeds in the process. We recommend three inches at a minimum.

Thanks again for your confidence in us.



Why do I need to water my tree? Doesn't it have a tap root that draws moisture from deep below the soil surface?

There are many misconceptions about where tree roots grow and how they work, including the misconception that they all have tap roots. A tap root is a root that is equal in diameter to the size of the

trunk at base level and tapers as it grows downward. According to the most recent research findings, most trees do not develop a tap root at all. Most trees develop a root system that is rather shallow and widespread, spreading to 2-3x the diameter of the canopy. Typically, anchor roots will develop maybe a few feet down, but all feeder roots used for water and nutrient collection are within the top 2-6 inches of soil.

The top layer of the soil where the roots reside can dry out fairly quickly during exceptionally hot, dry periods of the summer, especially if there is turf growing around the tree. Often times the turf roots absorb the vast majority of the water supplied by automatic irrigation systems, leaving very little moisture for the tree roots. Use a garden trowel or a screwdriver to check the soil moisture two inches below the surface. If it is dry, it is time to hand water. Place a hose at the base of the tree and let the water trickle for 20-30 minutes.



Saucer Magnolia

Happy Spring!

March 20th marked the first day of spring and we couldn't be happier to celebrate it. The growl of snow blowers can be replaced by the songs of birds and the roar of the lawn mower. Our crews have already been completing spring clean-ups, remulches and deep root feedings. It won't be long before plants and shrubs are in full bloom and it is time to plant annuals. Mother's Day is considered the frost free date, but there's no need to wait that long to plan your beautiful beds!

While annuals are often thought of as vibrant flowering plants, below are some that you may not have realized are annuals that can bring some diversity to your landscape. [Contact us](#) to plan your landscape!



Crimson Crystal Ruby Grass



Potato Vine



Purple Fountain Grass



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