



Grass Roots

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Turf Talk 2016.02

Starting off with some of your questions: What is that white stuff on my grass? Powdery mildew is the answer.



"Powdery Mildew (*Blumeria graminis*) covers turfgrass leaves with white mycelium. While it may look funny, it does not present serious harm to the turfgrass. It is favored in wet and shaded sites. Chemical treatment is not recommended." This is straight from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Drier, warmer conditions will usually solve the problem except in deeply shaded areas of lawns where it may persist.

The second question: why are there so many dandelions? I don't know if that is reality or a perception. Our long-term customers who periodically overseed tend to develop a more dense turf which crowds out even dandelions. The best control remains fall herbicide applications which we continue to do. We will spray what we see while on the property and obtain some control at other times of the year. For newer customers with severe problems, patience is key. These situations take longer than a season to develop, and they will take longer than a season to control.

Supplemental irrigation is not necessary yet. Established lawns would survive several weeks of dry, hot, windy conditions before supplemental irrigation would begin to be an issue.

Mowing is an issue this time of year when we have a fair amount of rain. It requires discipline to make sure you mow regularly when it can be inconvenient to do so. Taking more than one third of the crown at any one mowing stresses the turf. Remember to keep the blade sharpened.

There is still time to aerate your yard this spring. Take the opportunity to increase air circulation in the root zone.

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Reminders

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

Kicking Back Poolside

School will be out soon and summer will official-

ly begin. There will be places to go, people to see, graduations and weddings galore and don't forget about pool parties to be had! Will you be hosting these pool parties? CM's can help! CM's can design and install the perfect poolside patio to provide entertainment for years to come. Picture it: A pool deck of poured concrete. Will the concrete be stained and stamped as well? Or perhaps you will choose pavers instead, selected from a variety of colors with a myriad of design patterns. You are enjoying a chilled beverage in one of several loungers under your brand new pergola. And when the night grows dim, the landscape lights turn on as you continue the party into the evening. Will you have a fire pit nearby too? What a fabulous way warm up when the chilly evening threatens to dampen your spirits.



Be sure to view our video on our [website](#) to see how CM's was able to work with Mike & Paula's busy schedule so they could enjoy more time with their family and friends.



This 2009 winner of the Watkins Ultimate Backyard Challenge has just about everything you need for a pool party: fantastic patio, pergolas, multi-tiered landscape with seating in various locations, water feature, fireplace and fire pit, grilling area and landscape lighting.

Contact a CM's representative to design and install your new patio.



Ask The Arborist

Do I need to help my tree heal its wounds?

Wounds can be caused by necessary pruning cuts, accidental bumps by lawn equipment, or rodent damage. It used to be common practice to “help” the tree protect itself by painting the wound with different types of sealants or pruning paints, taping the trunk, and/or filling holes in trunks with various substances. However, studies have shown that painting the wound, along with other “helpful” practices will actually slow down or prevent natural healing processes from taking place. For example, when wound dressings are used, moisture and disease pathogens can be sealed into the damaged area. This makes it much more difficult for the tree to effectively compartmentalize the wound.



Bald Cypress

Trees have many ways to deal with these wounds all on their own. A tree will compartmentalize, or wall off, the damaged area by isolating the wound both physically and chemically. Trees send protective chemicals to the wound site, including antifungal and insecticide type chemicals to protect against infection. The hormones in the tree will be triggered to begin to produce callus tissue so that the tree can form the physical protective barrier. These are just a couple of tools the tree has to deal with the wound.



Honeylocust

What we CAN do to help the tree is to make sure it is as healthy as possible. If your tree has been properly pruned, the best thing you can do for it is to let it heal itself. If your tree has broken limbs caused by storm damage, it is best to hire a licensed arborist to correctly prune the tree so that it can begin to seal off the damage. Keep the area around the tree mulched but keep the mulch a couple of inches away from the trunk. Make sure the tree is getting plenty of water, especially during the hot summer months. Monitor the tree for any insect or disease problems and address them appropriately, and prune any diseased or broken branches using proper pruning techniques. Making sure your tree is as healthy as possible will help it to effectively deal with the wound. We can also avoid further damage to trees by avoiding the following: hanging items in the tree either with wire or nails such as birdhouses or ornaments, building treehouses, staking trees improperly.

Contact a CM’s representative today to schedule a consultation!



English Oak



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