



# Grass Roots

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## Turf Talk 2016.03

Once again, we are waiting for warmer, drier, spring weather. Some turf areas have been slow to "green up" this year. UNL recently sent out an article, "[Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties Slow to Green Up](#)," discussing a likely rationale for this phenomenon. The article can be found at [turf.unl.edu/turf-info](http://turf.unl.edu/turf-info). As with many of the problems we identify in turf, this is not fatal; and we try not to "fix" natural responses to the climate in which we live. If you have concerns that the problem is more involved than nature being slow, we are always willing to come out and take a look.

We continue to move through our second pre-emergent with fertilizer application. By in large, most of the turf looks good. For our long-term customers, your cooperation over the years plays a big part in the success of our program. It is a real compliment when a prospective client points to a yard we have been caring for and asks that their yard look the same. We always point out the role you played in making your lawn look that good.

The next product we apply is our insect control product, primarily looking to keep grubs at a non-damaging population. We typically begin in mid-June. Weather permitting, we will continue to spray weeds we can control this time of year.

This is also the time of year we begin to look at yards in terms of the need to renovate or overseed in the fall. Whether it is to improve turf density or maintain existing turf density, overseeding with an appropriate seed cultivar makes a difference. If that is a service in which you are interested, please give us a

call to come out and look at your yard.

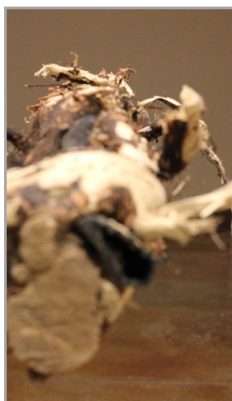


## Reminders

1. Plant spring annuals
2. Prune flowering shrubs
3. Inspect irrigation systems

## Believe It or Not

The world of irrigation is one of mysteries. Our technicians see issues from lightning requiring a new battery for a controller to, "my dog chewed up my sprinkler head," and everything in between. Clients may see poor coverage from the sprinkler heads and the turf may even start to brown and ask, "Why is barely any water coming out of the heads?"



Notice how the tree root constricts the pipe, reducing water flow.

While low pressure can be due to a variety of reasons, one possible cause is trees, specifically their roots. Roots can compress the sprinkler pipes over time, causing low pressure. Tree roots are meant to extend far beyond the base of the tree, providing stability as well as to seek out nutrients and water. It is no wonder that the tree root will wrap around a sprinkler pipe along the way, yet it is still surprising when you see the damage. The real mystery is how it doesn't happen more often! To solve this problem, the damaged sprinkler pipe and tree roots are removed. The pipe will be replaced and re-positioned if necessary.

The temperatures are rising. Has your system been evaluated by a professional? Contact CM's for a maintenance service call to ensure your system is ready before the heat of the summer.



This tree root has snarled its way around the sprinkler pipe.



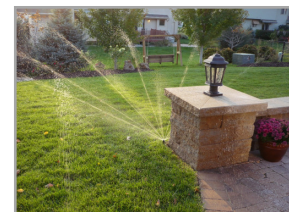
Thank you to all of you that have taken time to compliment our crews. We appreciate your feedback and we are sure to share it with the crews and the individuals you mention. Here is what one client had to say about his sprinkler repair, landscape and plant management visit and a new landscape installation, all from this spring:

"Tad was very helpful, showed me exactly what was wrong and what he did to repair the leak."

"Lacey did an outstanding job on our shrubs and other landscaping during her 25 April visit. The landscape looks the best it ever has since it was installed."

"I just wanted to let you know how pleased we are with the recent landscaping project done by CM. The landscape looks the best it ever has in 20+ years living here. The entire CM team, including Dan Zoucha and John, the project lead, went way over and above to ensure our complete satisfaction. John's crew was courteous and professional throughout; they were obviously highly competent and concerned with doing the best job possible. Please let everyone who participated in this project know that we are completely satisfied and impressed with the job they did, from initial design through completion. In future, I will recommend CM to anyone considering landscaping work."

Our crews appreciate your compliments. If you have a moment to provide feedback to our crew, please [contact us](#) or [post a review](#).





## My tree leafed out in the spring and then died. What happened?

Occasionally a tree will leaf out in the spring but the leaves don't fully mature and the tree dies a short time later. This can be confusing and frustrating, especially if we are experiencing

a "normal" spring with adequate rainfall. There are several potential reasons for the tree's failure; however, the failure usually has more to do with issues that had been affecting the tree for a year or more before it finally fizzled out.

### Ask The Arborist

During the growing season, trees produce carbohydrates, through photosynthesis, to be used as food for energy to perform the necessary tasks for growing and thriving. At the same time, the tree is also storing a portion of the food in reserves for later use. During the winter months, growing and other processes almost come to a halt. The tree is not producing much food, nor is it using much energy.

When the temperatures begin to warm in the spring and the buds begin to swell, the tree uses more energy than it will at any other time of year. In order for the tree to have enough energy to leaf out in the spring, it must draw an incredible amount of food from its reserves. Once the new leaves have had time to mature, they will start to produce food for energy once again. At this point, the tree can stop using its reserve supply of food. As the leaves continue to grow and photosynthesis is taking place, the tree will begin to store food once again and build up the reserve supply.

By understanding this cycle, we know the plant must be healthy enough to manufacture, store, and use adequate nutrients throughout the year. If it isn't, a tree may have just enough food stored to begin leafing out, but not enough to continue growing. In some cases, you will end up with dead branches or even a dead tree.

Proper plant care, such as correctly watering and fertilizing your tree, should prevent these issues from becoming a problem for the health of your tree.

Here are a few other reasons a tree may deplete its reserves and run out of nutrients:

- It is improperly planted and trying to overcome poor growing conditions
- Severe pruning (more than 1/3 of the tree is removed at one time)
- Extensive storm damage
- Loss of healthy leaf surface due to disease or insect infestation
- Late spring freeze that results in the tree leafing out twice



Japanese Lilac

## Contact a CM's representative to schedule a consultation!



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