



Grass Roots

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Midseason Review

We hear a number of our clients telling us that it feels like July and the lawns look like it as well. We have had an impressive string of days with 90 degree temperatures with dew points running between 60 and 75 degrees. These are not great numbers for cool season grasses. While we typically do not see these extremes this early in the year, the impact on some yards has been immediate. Fungal outbreaks that we would see later in July into August are occurring now. When the disease occurs later in the summer, we only have to contend with it until temperatures and humidity decrease in September. This year, we have an extra month.

As we have said in past years, there are measures that homeowners can take to lessen the impact of turf disease:

- Cool season grasses can handle "dry" better than they handle "wet." Resist the urge to over water
- Learn about the operation of your irrigation system if you have one. Many controllers have a seasonal adjustment setting, either increasing or decreasing watering times easily.
- Consider contacting us to install a rain sensor if you do not already have one.
- Aerate in the spring and fall to increase air circulation in the root zone. It is often overlooked, but it is an important part of turf maintenance.

We are always asked about days to water and length of time to water. We try to answer those questions, but our response is, at best, an imperfect approximation because turf conditions vary greatly by property. The turf itself is the best indicator of when you need supplemental irrigation. Consider watering if:

- The grass does not spring back when you walk on it
- The soil is dry at a depth of four inches (screw driver test)

Be sure to read the Smart Irrigation Month article as well to learn about current technology trends for irrigation controllers.

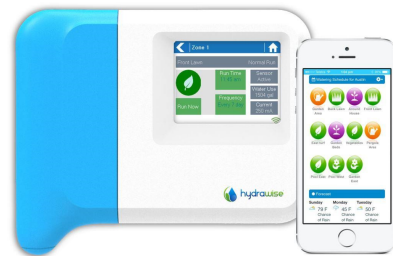


With the exceptionally warm June we had, most homeowners and businesses are providing supplemental irrigation to their lawns. It seems appropriate that the Irrigation Association (IA) named July, "Smart Irrigation Month." The IA initiative, "seeks to increase public awareness about the value of

water-use efficiency." The IA offers advice on a variety of topics including, adjusting sprinkler heads, proper start times and run times for your system as well as technology to reduce excessive watering. While you may have heard of check valves and rain sensors, this month we will concentrate on smart controllers that not only can be operated from the unit, they can be operated from your computer or mobile device as well.

Smart Controllers are not a new concept in irrigation, but they continue to advance in user-friendliness and number of options. CM's is currently testing Hydrowise controllers that are operated and programmed from the controller, any smart phone, iPads or computer. At your house or on vacation, you can operate and program your irrigation system. In short, the technology seems to work. The Hydrowise controller can be programmed like most current controllers and be set to run a certain number of days per week and at a fixed run time for each zone or it can be programmed to communicate with private or public weather stations, in which case the controller will react to weather forecast and measured rainfall and change the program within a set of parameters set by the user. One other feature worth mentioning is the ability to allow your irrigation contractor to monitor and amend the program on your controller without accessing your house. Certainly technology worth knowing about. Learn more at: <https://hydrowise.com/>.

As always, CM's will continue to share information about what we learn through our evaluation. In the meantime, be sure to check our newsletter archive for smart irrigation practices. If you find that your yard has dry patches or if you need your start and run times adjusted during this hot season, please contact us to schedule an evaluation of your system.



Happy Independence Day!

CM's would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday!



Please visit <http://www.visitomaha.com/events/fireworks/> and <http://www.safenebraska.org/safe-home-play/fireworks-safety/> for a listing of public fireworks displays in Nebraska and safety tips if you are setting off fireworks on your own.



Reminders

1. Schedule turf renovation or aeration & over-seeding.
2. Schedule irrigation system review.
3. Apply disease & insect spray to trees and



Ask The Arborist

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update

Since discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer in Douglas County earlier this month, our arborists have been busy treating and diagnosing trees. Here are a few questions that have come up that deserve some clarification.

Is there still time to treat my Ash Tree this year?

CM's A Cut Above is using the trunk injection method, utilizing a product called TREE-äge. This particular treatment is an every two-year application. It is labeled for application from April-October. There is still time to provide protection for your Ash Trees.



Emerald Ash Borer

How long can you extend the life of my tree by treating my Ash Trees?

Although there are no guarantees, a healthy Ash Tree can be expected to survive another 15 years when injecting with TREE-äge.

Should I treat for Emerald Ash Borer?

- Before treating any Ash Tree consider the following:
- Maturity of Tree
- Effect on Property Value
- Effect on Energy Cost
- Sentimental Value
- Cost of Removal/Replacement



Green Ash

If my tree is infected, how quickly will I see the damage?

D-Shaped exit holes, thinning canopy, and epicormics sprouts are all symptoms of EAB. This process can take several years.



Autumn Purple Ash

Visit <https://www.cmcustomlawn.com/blog/topic/emerald-ash-borer> for more information about EAB.



D-shaped exist hole

Contact CM's if you are interested in treatment.



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