



Grass Roots

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Turf Talk 2016.04

After two years of relatively mild summers, reality

returned to Nebraska. With above average moisture early in the growing season and a record-breaking string of 90+ degree temperatures in June. Our cool season lawns have suffered.

Two problems predictably occurred. The first was disease, the direct result of high temperatures and high humidity. From having minor fungal outbreaks the last two years we went to frequent and more pronounced outbreaks this year, all of them happening much earlier in the season. The second problem was weeds, more specifically, crabgrass.

Our thoughts on fungus have not changed. Most of the diseases we see will run their course and clear up with cooler, less humid weather. We have a small number of clients who make use of our fungus preventive program. We believe we achieve good results, but there are no guarantees. Mowing with a sharp blade, appropriate fertilization, and sound irrigation practices minimize the impact of fungal diseases.

Weeds, anything growing in your turf that is not supposed to be there, tend to occur in lawns with insufficient density, in border areas (walks and drive way edges) and anyplace where desirable grasses do not do well. Density is improved by periodic overseeding to increase desirable grass plants. Coupled with proper mowing (no less than 3.5 inches year round), a dense stand of turf will shade out many weeds.

Border areas are sometimes challenging because the soil adjacent to walks and driveways are often contaminated with rock and concrete, hardly an environment in which to establish a healthy root system. The heat reflected off the concrete surfaces further stresses grass plants. If a particular area of your turf always fails, consider other landscape options (a border or bed along a driveway, for example).

If you are looking to improve areas of your lawn, now is the time to schedule aerating and seeding services. We aim to complete all seeding by mid-September to provide for adequate time for seed germination.



Reminders

1. Schedule turf renovation or aeration & overseeding.
2. Schedule irrigation system review.
3. Apply insect and disease treatments to trees and shrub.

Brighten Your Night

With the recent temperatures and humidity, enjoying your time outdoors is limited to the time after the sun sets. Then there's a different issue—it's dark! Let CM's fix that. Landscape lighting is an easy and quick way to illuminate your home and accentuate your landscape.

Strategically placed lighting is essential to extending the use and enjoyment of any outdoor space, as well as accenting planting materials, walls, patios and architecture. It also adds beauty, safety and security to your nightscape and to your home.

CM's offers professional installation with a 5-15 year warranty on LED fixtures, depending on the product you choose. The products we use provide a consistent, warm white coloration within a single product line and finishes can be customized for your individual preferences. LED fixtures also have the following benefits:

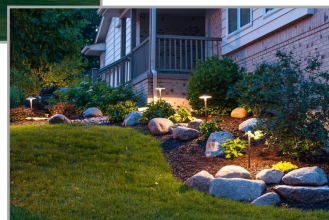
- ♦ Use 75% less electricity than incandescent and halogen lamps
- ♦ Fixtures are rated for 40,000-50,000 hours of use
- ♦ More versatility in system layout.

Landscape lights come in a variety of styles to suit your needs. Path lights can be used along sidewalks and landscape paths to create a safer walkway and can also be used throughout your landscape to focus on specific features or architecture. Spot lights are often used to accent trees, mounted flags and flagpoles. Pond lights can be installed in water features to add a radiant glow. Under cap or stair lights are mounted under the lip of stairs or walls; and like path lights, they create a safer environment for your friends and family. In addition to the aesthetic aspect of landscape lighting, a well-lit property is a simple way to enhance the security of your home.

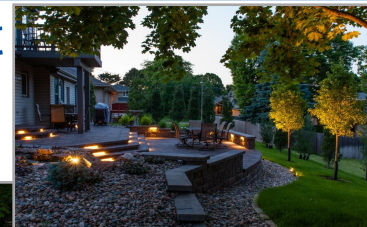
Complete your outdoor living space with landscape lighting and add to the space's functionality once the sun sets.



Contact CM's today for an estimate



This project also uses spotlights on the trees as well as path lights to accent their lovely landscape.



This project features pond lights, spotlights on the trees and under cap lights throughout the two tiered patio, creating a prime entertainment area for the evening.



Ask The Arborist

What Can We Learn from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Infestation?

How diseases and insects spread:

EAB, along with many other insects, are mostly spread by what is referred to as "human-assisted movement." This can be from moving infested firewood and nursery stock. Purchase firewood where you will burn it to prevent the spread of these pests. To learn more, visit dontmovefirewood.org.

Planting for Diversity:

Although the wide-spread infestation of EAB is the most destructive the United States has seen to date, our community has been down this road before with Dutch Elm Disease in the 1960s and Pine Wilt since 2000. These infestations and diseases highlight the significant issue of diversification within our tree population. In Omaha alone, there are approximately 11,000 ash trees on public property, comprising over 14 percent of the total public property tree population. That figure does not even consider the residential population of ash trees. Experts recommend that no one species of tree make up more than 10% of a community's tree population. The general guideline is the 10/20/30 rule: no more than 10% of any one species, 20% of any one genus, or 30% of any family in a tree population.

If you are looking to plant a new tree or if you need to replace an Ash tree you removed, consider a tree that is less common not only in the community, but also in your own neighborhood.



Photo © Karina Helm

Photo Courtesy of Arbor Day Foundation



Photo Courtesy of Oregon State University

Examples of trees that do well in Nebraska are the Kentucky Coffeetree and the Ponderosa Pine. The Kentucky Coffeetree is adaptable to a variety of soils, can be considered a shade or an ornamental tree and is typically a hardy tree. The Ponderosa Pine is a fast-growing evergreen that is sturdy and drought-tolerant. [Retree Nebraska](http://RetreeNebraska) is a good source to consider when planting for diversity and trying to choose the right tree.

Proper tree care:

Providing the proper water, nutrients and growing conditions is always important to tree health. Research indicates that healthy trees are better able to withstand disease and benefit from treatments than those that are in a weakened state. CM's offers a 4-step tree care program to protect against disease and insects.

Be sure to visit CM's blog for important information about planting a new tree when one has recently been removed.

Contact Us for an Evaluation



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