



Grass Roots

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Turf Talk 2016.05 With September, we usually begin to see relief from heat and humidity. Cool season grasses begin to recover, and some small bare areas will begin to fill in. Fall also becomes the optimal time to spray weeds like dandelions, wild violet, and the like; so we will be on the lookout for those opportunities.

We have spoken of overseeding in past issues and we do so again in our "Fall Chores" article. Another thought is that if there are parts of your lawn that resist the establishment of turf for whatever reason, we have the opportunity to look at the challenge from a new vantage point. Dry stream beds, flower beds, boulders and other landscape options, may provide a solution. Turf does not work everywhere; and if you are satisfied that every possibility has been exhausted, let's try something else.

Fall is often a time when homeowners become lax in the care and feeding of their turf areas. They may not be in the yard as much and out of sight does become out of mind. The grass continues to grow, and it needs to be mowed regularly. As the last two applications of fertilizer contain the bulk of the nitrogen we apply, these steps are critical to the fertilizer program. If you have overseeded, follow our guidelines for irrigation so the grass will germinate and gain sufficient growth before the first frost. Take note of areas of the yard that may not have recovered as you thought they might. Let us know so we can put a plan in place for next season. While irrigation needs change in the fall, turf still needs water whether you overseeded or not.



We enjoy visiting with you about your lawn. We are happy to come out and walk the lawn with you to answer your questions or address concerns.



Reminders

1. Schedule turf renovation or aeration & overseeding.
2. Schedule fall clean-up.
3. Schedule fall bulb planting.
4. Schedule holiday lighting installation.

Fall Chores

In early September it is hard to think about chores to complete before winter, but here we are again. Here are a few chores to prepare your lawn and landscape for the next year.



Crocus



Hyacinths

If you have not already done so, now is time to aerate and seed. Aeration reduces soil compaction, allowing the water to be better absorbed and assist in seed germination. We continually say that the best defense against weeds is a healthy stand of turf. A double-plug aeration combined with seeding is a helpful step to achieve that goal. We aim to have all seedings completed by the week of September 18 to allow enough time for the seed to germinate before a hard freeze. If you are seeding on your own, we recommend following these same guidelines.



Tulips



Daffodils

Bulbs can be planted in October and November, but now is the time to evaluate your needs and place an order. Whether you are planting bulbs around a small tree or you are using them throughout your landscape, bulbs are often the first bursts of color you will see in the spring. Available in a myriad of colors and varieties, popular bulbs are daffodils, hyacinths, crocus and, of course, tulips. Be sure to place your order before the end of September as the most popular color choices sell out quickly.

Contact us today!



Thank you to everyone who has taken time to compliment our employees. We like to share with them that their efforts are appreciated. Here is a sample of feedback received this year:

"I want to let you know that the two young men who came out to mow the lawn yesterday did a wonderful job of cleaning up around the back and front yards. I really appreciate this since I'm no longer able to neaten up the place as I used to. Thanks!" ~Carmen M.

"I like the professional courtesy of every CM employee that has ever worked on our property....Christmas lights, driveway work, landscaping work, lawn care...you have an excellent working staff. I have always been well pleased with any conversations that I have had with office personnel as well. It feels and sounds like being part of a family. These are truly Christian qualities which I look for in a company that we choose to do our business with on a regular basis. Thanks for all that you have done and will continue to do for us. God bless." ~Chris O.

"You guys did our front yard two years ago, and now our back yard has that same wow factor to match the front, absolutely love it. Thank you to the professional, courteous, and hardworking crew and to everyone involved from start to finish."
~ Ron K.

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





Ask The Arborist

I think my tree has carpenter ants. Should I worry?

We have received a few calls in the past month from concerned homeowners who observed ants colonizing in their trees. It is wise to be aware of any changes that may be happening among your prized trees but not all bugs are necessarily bad.

Carpenter ants establish their colonies from the dead and decaying wood of mostly older trees. One of the key features in identifying the presence of ants is by the small mounds of saw dust that accumulate at the base of the tree. It may seem like they are feeding on the trees but this is not the case. Ants much rather prefer the sweet honey dew that is secreted by the insects of aphids and scale.



Saw dust from ants



Decay fungi (conks)

Carpenter ants are not directly harmful to the tree but they are a sign that the tree may have weak and dead branches that should be removed. Other signs of decay in a tree are fruiting bodies such as conks and mushrooms.

The concern with carpenter ants is the likeliness that they will establish a satellite colony elsewhere. Satellite colonies are extensions of the main colony and its purpose is to build more space for more eggs. Unfortunately, any building structures, such as your home, can be candidates for these extended families. If your ant inhabited tree is sitting next to a building, you may want to monitor for any movement. Once again, they are not eating the wood, but just removing the dead wood.

What can we do about this besides prune out the dead wood? The first instinct is to spray the colony in the tree, however that most-likely will not kill the queen. That will also trigger a self-defense mechanism in the ants, causing the colony to double in size in just a short amount of time. Instead, one good practice is to spray your building structures to prevent the satellite colonies. CM's offers perimeter insect control service where our certified applicators spray the perimeters of any structures. We are happy to consult with you to discuss pest prevention options. Contact us for more information.



Red Maple

Autumn is coming soon with winter right behind it. Are your trees ready? Be sure to check our [blog](#) about useful information regarding fall tree fertilization and watering.



Pin Oak



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