



# Grass Roots

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## Turf Talk 2016.06

We are currently in the middle of our second to last application of the year, and we are vigorously spraying broadleaf weeds. In most cases, we are seeing good recovery from the stresses of the long, hot, summer. We continue to receive some questions on nutsedge. UNL has at least one doctoral student working full time on nutsedge. The following reference from UNL is a fairly concise and easily understood explanation of the plant and the problems of control: <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/burt/nutsedge-in-lawns/>. Unfortunately, we are unlikely to be on a given yard at the precise time to deal with nutsedge before the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, as the article suggests. We will continue to spray the plants on our fertilizer stops, acknowledging that late season control is difficult because of plant maturity.

Both the mole and the vole populations seem higher than usual. Population swings do occur in wildlife and insects of all kinds. In all of our years, we have never seen voles running through the turf until this year. We have reported four (and counting) moles trapped in one yard when we would have thought two were a lot. We continue to adapt right along with everything else in nature. Traps continue to be the best way to combat these pests.

Irrigation is always a hot topic, mostly because of the scarcity of the resource in many places. We believe over-watering is a bigger problem than under-watering. In addition to wasting the resource, over-watering has a detrimental impact on turf and other plants. We are always happy to consult with you in this area as well.

Maintaining and repairing turf requires teamwork between the homeowner and their lawn professionals. Thank you for trusting us with your lawns. As always, we are happy to consult with you to provide the best care for your turf.



## Reminders

1. Schedule sprinkler winterizations
2. Schedule fall bulb planting
3. Schedule holiday lights installation

## Fall Chores: Part II

You're not seeing things, we are talking about fall chores again! The list of fall chores is long. That is because so often what we do in the fall is not only for our turf's health in the current year, but also in the following spring. Fortunately, most of the tasks have a specific time frame in which they should be done which allows you to tackle a little bit here and there. Still don't have the time? Contact CM's to help!

### Turf Care:

- 🍁 Clean up leaves. You may wonder, "Can I just mow over them?" The answer is, "It depends." While mulching the leaves with a mower does return certain nutrients to the turf, a blanket of leaves can smother the turf below. Additional leaf cleanup is necessary to prevent snow mold and other damage to the lawn in the spring.
- 🍁 Continue with fertilizer applications. We apply 70% of nitrogen to the turf this time of the year. Nitrogen contributes to photosynthesis, supporting the growth and lush green color of your turf.



### Irrigation:

- 🍁 Winterize your irrigation system. We have had sufficient rain this season so hopefully you are thinking about turning off your system. We are currently scheduling winterizations and completing them throughout this month. The winterization process removes water from your interior drain valve as well as from the lines underground, minimizing the risk of water freezing as the temperatures and the frost line drops. Visit our irrigation page for more information about the process.

### Tree Care:

- 🍁 Fertilize your trees. The tree's root system is still very active during the winter and will be using and storing nutrients that it takes up from the soil. Fall deep root feeding benefits the tree by making sure it has the necessary nutrients to get through the winter and to be ready to put on new growth in the spring.
- 🍁 Prune your trees. When trees are dormant and the leaves have fallen, we can see the frame work of the tree more clearly.

## Happy Halloween

The holiday season is upon us. Can you smell the pumpkin spice? As you get ready to carve pumpkins for Halloween, here are a few of our favorite tips for carving a pumpkin:



- 🍁 Cut the lid on an angle so the lid won't drop inside when you replace it.
- 🍁 Apply petroleum jelly to the flesh to preserve the pumpkin.
- 🍁 If you keep the lid on when a candle is lit inside, create a chimney.
- 🍁 Sprinkle a little cinnamon inside the lid so it will smell like pumpkin pie when a candle is lit.

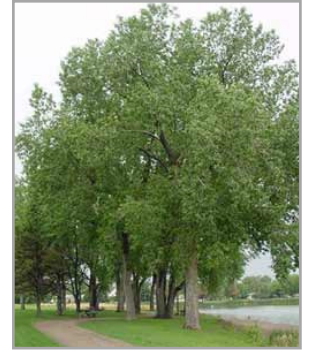
Visit <http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/halloween-ideas/a22196/pumpkin-carving-tips/> for a complete list of tips.



## Ask The Arborist

# Why does my cottonwood tree make a mess of its leaves every year?

Cottonwoods are one of my favorite Midwestern tree because of its tall structure and shimmering leaves. There is a long history connecting this tree to the great state of Nebraska but its use as a planted specimen has been dwindling. The reason for this seclusion? They are gaining a reputation of being a messy, and unsightly nuisance to the landscape.



Cottonwood trees



Septoria leaf spots

Leaf rusts and spots do and will continue to plague our beloved landscape trees when the optimal conditions arise. Cottonwoods are no exception. Being a native tree does not make them resistant to disease because some of these foliar diseases are native to North America as well. The most common leaf spot for this species is the Septoria leaf spot. Symptoms range from small flecks, brown circular spots with yellow margins, white or silvery spots, or irregular brown spots with dark brown margins. The reason for such a variety of symptoms is due to when or how the spores were activated. This causes a long and consistent leaf dropping from mid-summer to the end of fall.

After raking the same leaves for a few months only to be exhausted and fed up with this tree you might be thinking if there is anything you could be doing different to help prevent this problem from happening again.

Sanitation is everything with leaf rusts and spots. The more you rake now, the less you will have to rake next year. Leaf sanitation is required to slow down this disease because the spores will hibernate in the ground until next year after a warm wet spring releases them into the air. If you are fed up with the constant leaf clean-up, CM's offers a variety of leaf clean-up options.

Septoria leaf spot is a fungus that is mostly cosmetic in nature and does not kill the tree, but it can do damage to newly installed cottonwood trees. Consider our 4-step tree healthcare program, which includes a fungicide, for any of your newly-planted trees. We are happy to help.



Cottonwood, fall color

## Contact us for a consultation!



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