



# Grass Roots

## Happy Thanksgiving

With the recent warm temperatures, can it really be November already? We have so much for which we are thankful, and we would like to take a moment to share some of them with you.

Thank you to our clients. Your continued trust is our foundation. You make it possible to provide stable employment for our employees. Thank you for making it possible for us to support community, educational and charitable efforts. Thank you!

We are thankful for our employees' hard work and dedication throughout the year. The employees of CM's make a commitment to **EXPECT EXCELLENCE** from themselves and from each other. They continue to train throughout the year and in the offseason to hone their expertise and work in a safe environment. Their energy and commitment to the company and its clients sets CM's apart from other companies.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our veterans, active-duty service members and their families. Your service and sacrifice is immeasurable. Thank you to our own veterans: Dave Scearcy and Chuck Monico of the Army and Andrew Cordero and Will Reinhart of the Marine Corps.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you. It is a privilege. We wish you a very happy holiday season.



## Reminders

1. Schedule fall landscape clean-up and maintenance.
2. Schedule fall bulb planting
3. Schedule holiday lighting installation.
4. Mark perimeters for snow removal.

## End of the Season Review

As the 2016 growing season winds down,

there are lessons aplenty for all of us. One is that cool season grasses seldom win in a hostile climate. That was demonstrated time and time again this season with sustained high temperatures and humidity. We see that when turf is stressed, other pests, weed and insect, as well as disease can be a problem. While we did not see a particular problem with insects, weed populations increased and brown patch was more prevalent. As we discussed with some of you in person, spraying during the heat of the summer comes with its own set of problems. It is generally less effective and there is the possibility of damaging desirable plant material.



Before and after of disease-damaged turf. Before pictures were taken in June. In addition to benefiting from cooler temperatures, this turf was overseeded.

Another lesson is that over-watering is more of an issue than under-watering. While we cannot control the climate, we will continue to provide you with up-to-date information on determining the adequacy of your irrigation efforts. As newer irrigation system technology becomes available, we will push that out to you as well.

We continue to see that as the climate became more moderate, cool season grasses, especially bluegrass, demonstrate exceptional recovery characteristics. This recovery can further be enhanced by periodic overseeding, whether it is done to increase overall turf density or to repair actual damage. We have before and after pictures that demonstrate the benefit of overseeding a disease-damaged turf.

We noted that pest populations do, in fact, vary over time. Two of this year's best examples were the increased presence of moles and voles in some yards. While we would like to get into a scholarly discussion of the "whys and wherefores," most of our customers just want them gone. We did trap moles for a few customers. It can be an expensive venture if we do all the work. We find that many customers can do it for themselves, and we are happy to instruct them and suggest appropriate traps. Voles are easily trapped with mouse traps. Because of the larger populations, it can become costly for us to do much more than educate property-owners on the process of vole control. We can use poisons where children or pets are not an issue.



Before and after of the same disease-damaged turf.

In the face of these obstacles, and others, we persevere in the growing and the preservation of grass. Why? We believe that properly managed turf is a good investment as part of your landscape, and it is good for the environment.

Thank you for entrusting us with your turf care needs. We are glad to walk the lawn with you to answer questions or address challenges.



Ask The Arborist

## Why should I hire a certified arborist to prune my tree?

**Correct Pruning:** Stumpy limbs, topping, flush cuts, tears, and so much more. These are all a result of improper pruning and innocent mistakes made by tree owners with only the best intentions. While most trees can come back from these mistakes, some may suffer irreparable damage from a rough pruning. The helpful eye of an expert is advisable for cleaning up dead or damaged branches.



October Glory Maple

**Anxious about doing it yourself:** Sometimes it is such a relief to have a professional do the job. There are many folks who get nervous about the idea of cutting into a tree branch. No matter the cause of your apprehension, you can be at ease by hiring a certified arborist to prune the proper amount, at the proper time.

**Safety:** If you search for the most dangerous jobs in the world, loggers will be consistently ranked in the top 10, citing reasons such as dangerous equipment, falling limbs and trees and challenging terrain. You don't have to be three stories high in the tree for these dangers to exist. There are many steps involved in the process of removing tree limbs, where if overlooked, could be quite serious. Never underestimate the weight or density of a tree branch.



Rachael participating in a tree-climbing class, part of the curriculum to become a certified arborist.

**Professional Inspection.** Insects and disease on trees are often unnoticed by home owners because often they are not as familiar with the signs and symptoms. If a certified arborist notices something while pruning, good or bad, they may be able to provide advice and treatment options on the spot.



Autumn Purple Ash

## Contact CM's Certified Arborist for your tree pruning needs.



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