



Grass Roots

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Volume 2016 Issue 2



And the Winner Is...

Thank you to our clients that have returned their 2016 service agreements. A special thank you to all of those that returned their contracts by December 31, 2015.

The following are each winners of a \$50.00 Lowe's gift card:

- ◇ Dick Desmet
- ◇ Bob Ecker
- ◇ Will Fedde
- ◇ Harrill & Connie Gordon
- ◇ Maria Horne
- ◇ Lloyd Mill
- ◇ Chuck Sederstrom
- ◇ Laurie Shields
- ◇ Rose Tselentis
- ◇ Rex & Julie Weldon

The winner of the \$100.00 Lowe's gift card for returning their prepaid 2016 contract by December 31, 2015 is:

- ◇ Jeff Mindrup

Thank you again! You will each receive your gift cards this month.

If you have not returned your contract yet, you still can send it in or you can [contact](#) the office to ensure your place on the 2016 schedule.



Reminders

1. Return 2016 contracts.
2. Schedule an appointment with one of our landscape designers.
3. Schedule tree-pruning and re-mulch.
4. Review damage concrete areas in need of repair.
5. Contact CM's to install a rain sensor.

Landscape and Plant Management (LPM)

This year you may be seeing and hearing more about Landscape Plant Management (LPM). While the term may sound unfamiliar, we hope you recognize some of the tasks below. This winter we reorganized some services we offer in an effort to provide you the best results possible. Services offered as part of our Landscape Plant Management program include:

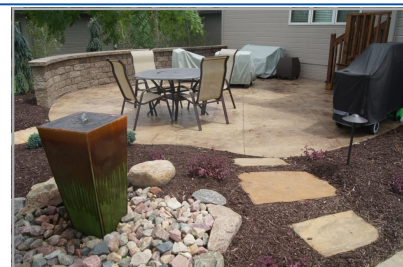
- ◇ Regularly scheduled shrub and plant care from April to November
- ◇ Annual spring clean-up and bed mulching
- ◇ Disease and insect care by a knowledgeable certified technician
- ◇ Fertilization to planted areas by knowledgeable certified technician
- ◇ Weeding
- ◇ Annuals planting for existing or provided planters, managed for seasonal color; winter storage.
- ◇ Winter watering
- ◇ Consultations on the condition of your landscape and plants; improvements planning, Q&A and information by experienced personnel.



Hiring a Contractor

We are approaching the

time of the year when many of you are considering home improvement projects, which may mean hiring a contractor to do the work. Regardless of whether it is a landscape project or a project for the interior of your home, the following are a few tips to keep in mind when hiring a contractor.



- ◇ Estimates and design fees are common. The design process is a valuable and vital step in many home improvement projects. It takes time and it should be specific to your project rather than be one of several standard designs a contractor offers. It may take multiple revisions to create the final outcome of the project you desire. In addition, when you pay for the design, you own it.
- ◇ Ask your contractor for a certificate of insurance showing evidence of property and casualty insurance and workers' compensation insurance so these risks do not transfer to you.
- ◇ Verify the contractor is licensed for the type of work you need completed.
- ◇ If you seek multiple estimates, consider WHY the price is different. A much lower price can mean cheaper quality materials or it can mean the two estimates are for a different scope of work. Compare the specifications of each estimate and ask questions so you can make a fair comparison.
- ◇ Check references for projects of a similar size and scope.
- ◇ Have a written contract that you have read and understand. Sign it and retain a copy for your records. The contract should include:
 - ◇ The contractor's name and contact information
 - ◇ A description of the work to be done, any warranties and guarantees for the project
 - ◇ The responsibilities of the homeowner versus the contractor
 - ◇ The total cost of the project and how change orders will be handled
 - ◇ The terms and schedule of payments
- ◇ A contractor requesting a deposit is normal, but deposits are typically capped at a third of the project's contract price. Deposits are necessary to cover the costs incurred to complete the job and they also demonstrate the client's commitment to the project.
- ◇ Pay for projects with a check or credit card so you have record of your payment transactions.

These are only some of the many items to consider when hiring a contractor. We encourage you to check with local professional agencies and the Better Business Bureau as well. Good luck on your upcoming projects!



What are the benefits of planting a windbreak?

The most obvious benefit is a windbreak will break the

cold winter wind before it hits your house. A properly placed windbreak can reduce your heating costs by up to 30%. Planting a windbreak on the north and northwest side of the house will provide the maximum benefit in regards to energy savings.

Windbreaks also help reduce noise, sights, and smells, such as pollution from a nearby busy street. The distance from the house the trees should be planted is no more than one to two times the height of the trees. For example, a tree with a mature height of 40' would ideally be planted no more than 80' from the house. If space allows, incorporating a row of tall shrubs into the planting can also help.

Any evergreen tree that does well in your area is a great choice for a windbreak. In Nebraska, we have a number of choices, such as Colorado Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce, Concolor Fir, Eastern Red Cedar, and Eastern White Pine. It is advisable to incorporate more than one species of evergreen tree into a windbreak. For example, instead of having a row of spruce trees, alternate spruce, fir, and pine. By planning ahead you can protect your windbreak from being wiped out when a pest comes along and destroys an entire species of trees, such as the case with Pine Wilt.



Concolor Fir

With a little planning and proper placement, you can enjoy the many benefits that a windbreak offers year-round.

M.U.D. Offers Rebate on Rain Sensors

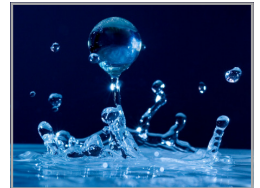
Are you worried about wasting water when it comes to your turf? Do you ever cringe when you come home in a down pour and see that your sprinkler is running? Let CM's help!

How it works

CM's installs a small transmitting unit outside and a receiving unit at your controller. The rain sensor will detect moisture and turn off the irrigation system when necessary.

M.U.D. is offering a rebate for **residential or commercial** M.U.D. water customers who install rain sensors for their existing lawn sprinkler systems. By contacting CM's to install a Hunter wireless rain sensors, **you can earn a \$50 credit toward your M.U.D. account.** Rain sensors must be installed by a licensed sprinkler contractor. Additionally, rebate funds are limited. Visit mudomaha.com for detailed rebate information.

What is the next step you ask? [Contact us](#) to indicate you would like CM's to install a Hunter wireless rain sensor for \$150.00 or call CM's for more information. The CM's technician will bring the rebate form with him to the appointment and fill out all of the information required from us. You enjoy your \$50.00 credit and save additional funds when your sprinkler system does not run unnecessarily.



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