



# Grass Roots

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## Spring Into Action

After the snow melts, what does your yard look like? For some of

you, there are some disturbing serpentine trails in your turf areas. In every case so far, they are "vole highways." Voles are rodents that are active year round, but most questions we receive come in the early spring. Their food of choice is the plant roots, so you often find entrance holes to their burrows on the edges of your beds. The size of populations can vary a great deal, and control becomes difficult the larger the population. A mouse trap placed in the entrance of a vole run works for smaller numbers. Keeping



your turf areas free of weeds and other debris can make the environment less hospitable. In the end, most of the turf damage repairs itself over the course of a growing season. Lightly raking the impacted areas is helpful. Some deeper runs may need topsoil and seed.

Snow mold can be a problem (even though it can occur without snow). Small patches of white, gray or even pink may be visible, especially where snow was piled high. Spring fertilizer pushes new growth and the problem resolves itself. Light raking with a leaf rake, **when the ground is dry**, can be helpful as well. Prevention occurs in the fall before it snows with proper fertilization, mowing, and removing leaves and other material from the lawn.



As for fertilization, we try to anticipate when crab grass will germinate in order to get to our client base on a timely basis. The key is soil temperature, which must be in the mid-50s for germination. With our two pre-emergent applications, we achieve very good control. Spring typically has a few surprises which may modify any or all of our spring services.

We avoid spring seeding if at all possible; but if you choose to do it on your own, please let us know so we can change the product we apply. There is literature that suggests that our long-held beliefs of the incompatibility of seeding and the use of pre-emergents may be changing, but we are still trying to use straight fertilizer when seeding will or has occurred.

As always, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you again this year. **Please contact us to get a head start on the spring.**



## Reminders

1. Schedule spring clean ups and deep root feedings for trees and shrubs.
2. Prune ornamental grasses and perennials.
3. Submit your ask the arborist questions.

## Spring Cleaning

The temperatures have been just warm enough to get everyone excited for spring. Now is a great time to start planning your spring yard care chores such as remulching and cleaning up your landscape beds. Chores: now that's an unpleasant word. Let CM's do the dirty work for you!



Our spring clean-up and mulch service consists of cleaning out landscape beds, deadheading perennials and cutting back ornamental grasses to allow for new growth, cutting in a fresh natural bed edge (if applicable), distributing mulch and applying a granular pre-emergent fertilizer.



Mulch acts as an insulator, regulates soil temperature, absorbs and holds water for plant use and also acts as a weed barrier. Mulch also breaks down

naturally, providing valuable nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Through the clean-up process, existing mulch will be turned over, raked and redistributed. In the cases where mulch has built up over the years, excess mulch may be removed to allow optimal air flow and absorption of water and nutrients. We will then add fresh mulch to make the beds look new again.

If you plan to take on this chore yourself, be sure to avoid piling mulch around the base of perennials, shrubs and trees. Mounds of mulch around the trunk of the tree keep the bark wet, promote insect and disease damage and rot the base of the tree.

Jump-start your landscape with a spring clean-up!



**Contact a CM's representative for an estimate.**

# CM's— Your One-Stop Shop

Before long, we will be hearing the sounds of lawn mowers and kids playing outside. Take in all the sounds, sit back and relax on your patio and admire your beautiful landscape coming into bloom. What's that you say?

You don't have a patio and the only plants in bloom are in your neighbors' yards? Let CM's help! We offer everything from installing landscape beds to fire pits and practically everything in between.



From a small plant bed to a large arboretum, landscapes can encompass a variety of elements such as plants, boulders and water features, to achieve your own oasis.



Planters are a fantastic accent piece for your entry way or patio. The planters can be changed out every season with your favorite annuals and décor, without the commitment of a large landscape.

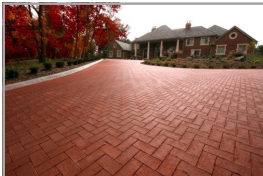


While retaining walls are functional, they are also beautiful. They add definition to elevations and provide a wonderful spot for a landscape.

Nothing can transform a backyard quite like a patio does. Whether standard poured concrete, pavers, or stained concrete, the features of the patio seems endless. What will its shape and color be? Will it have multiple tiers, a seat wall or a fire pit?



Speaking of fire pits, we do those too! These features are a great addition to any outdoor living space to create a warm ambiance for any crowd.



Whether it is for repair or aesthetic purposes, CM's has your driveway and sidewalk needs covered. Like patios, driveway and sidewalks can be standard poured concrete, stained concrete or pavers.

Are those hoses dragging you down? Consider installing an irrigation system to ensure your turf received adequate water at all times.



Now that you have this beautiful landscape, who will maintain it all? Luckily, CM's can help with that too. Our crews can make visits periodically to provide various clean-up, disease and insect care, fertilization, pruning and a variety of other landscape and plant management services.

How do we do it all? We have crews dedicated to landscape, hardscape, irrigation and turf maintenance divisions where all of the crew members are trained in their specific areas of expertise.

Now is a great time to plan your project so you can enjoy it the rest of the season. **Contact a CM's representative to start!**



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