



Grass Roots

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We are experiencing a wet, cool,

spring; a cool season grass lawn should be doing well now. Except for seeding or sod repairs, supplemental irrigation should be minimal. It is important to allow grass plants to establish deep, healthy, root systems. Overwatering causes soil saturation which is counter to the ability of the root system to develop and thrive, causing challenges as the season progresses and conditions become more stressful. With a healthy root system, plants are less susceptible to disease, insects, traffic, and heat. When it comes to water, less can definitely be better. However, it is a good idea to make sure your irrigation system is working as intended so it is ready when you need it.

Good mowing practices continue to be important. If you notice the leaf tips of the grass are ragged, the mower blades may need to be sharpened. An entire yard of ragged leaf tips may appear less green. Keep a spare blade and swap it out monthly. The lawn will be more disease resistant and it will look better.

Now is the time to evaluate lawns that are not performing as expected so we can plan renovation work in the fall. The fall window for work is a narrow four to six-week period if we want to make sure seed germinates and the new plants "harden off" before killing frosts occur. Contact us and we will put a plan in place for your lawn this fall.

As the heat and humidity of the summer approaches, remember higher soil temperatures and ambient temperatures in the 90s and above on a sustained basis are contrary to the genetics of your cool season lawns. The more that we can do to keep a lawn healthy going into the summer the quicker and more complete recovery will be this fall.

We are currently completing our second pre-emergent application. In mid-June we plan to start our third application, which is designed to keep grubs at a non-damaging level. We will continue to spray weeds we can control at this time of the year, weather permitting.



Reminders

1. Plant Spring annuals.
2. Prune flowering shrubs.
3. Inspect irrigation systems.



The design and installation process can take time. With that in mind, we are introducing our "Now Planning" feature as a guideline to ensure your outdoor living space is ready for your needs throughout the year. This will give you an idea of when your project may start if you started planning today, depending on its scope and size. Now would be a great time to plan for July and August cookouts!

Popular Plants

Picking plant material for landscape installation can be a challenge. Our sales associates and designers have identified some material that is known to do well in our area so you don't have to start from scratch.

Grasses:



Blue Heaven Little Bluestem
Height: 2-4 ft.
Spread: 2 ft.
Color: purplish bronze.
Full Sun



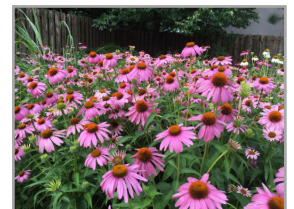
Overdam Reed Grass
Height: 2.5-3 ft.
Spread: 2 ft.
Color: pinkish green
Full Sun

Perennials:

Walker's Low Catmint.
Height: 18-24 in.
Spread: 18 in.
Color: Gray - green foliage with lavender -blue flowers
Full sun



Purple Cone-Flower
Height: 20-24 in.
Spread: 12-16 in.
Color: green foliage with purple flowers.
Partial shade to full sun



Shrubs:



Endless Summer Hydrangea
Height: 3-4 ft.
Spread: 3-4 ft.
Color: Green foliage with pink and blue flowers
Partial shade



Korean Spice Viburnum
Height: 4-6 ft.
Spread: 4-6 ft.
Color: Green foliage with pink to reddish buds
Partial shade to full sun

In addition to appearance and sun exposure, be sure to consider the watering and pruning needs of your plants. Some plants can attract wildlife, such as butterflies and bees, or they may even repel mosquitoes. Schedule a consultation with a CM's representative.

Be sure to follow our Plant of the Week blog series which highlights grasses, perennials, shrubs, and trees through the year.



Ask The Arborist

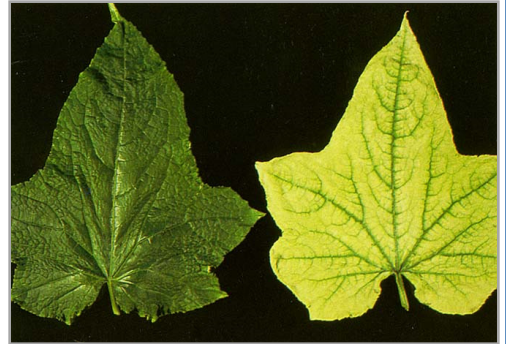
Why are the leaves on my trees yellowing? Answer: Iron Chlorosis

It is possibly chlorosis. The most visible symptom of chlorosis is the yellowing of foliage with green venation. It can be caused by a variety of issues including root damage, temperature extremes, too much or too little water or too much light.

decreases the tree's overall vigor and ability to survive. The iron deficiency comes from the plant's inability to withstand a soil pH higher than 7, which can be common in our heavy clay soils. The yellowing will first appear on the leaves from new growth and then work its way to the lower part of the tree.

In our area, much of the chlorosis we see is specifically iron chlorosis. Iron chlorosis is a chronic condition which slowly decreases the tree's overall vigor and ability to survive. The iron deficiency comes from the plant's inability to withstand a soil pH higher than 7, which can be common in our heavy clay soils. The yellowing will first appear on the leaves from new growth and then work its way to the lower part of the tree. In addition to the yellowing, leaves may become smaller and stunted, and dieback will occur on outer branches and twigs. This will kill the tree if left untreated. The trees in our area most-commonly impacted include river birch, pin oak, and silver maple.

We can improve the conditions for our trees. Mulch the soil surface with 2-3 inches of mulch and ensure good drainage. A CM's licensed arborist can provide iron injections as needed to improve the health of the tree. Most-often, these injections occur every other year, but they can occur yearly if needed.



Pictured on the left is a healthy leaf, while the leaf on the right is suffering from iron chlorosis. The yellow foliage with the green veins is the most noticeable sign of chlorosis.



Contact a CM's licensed arborist to evaluate and treat your trees!



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