



Grass Roots

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Turf Talk 2017.04 This is the time of year when we talk about cool season grasses and what happens to them when it is hot. Cool season grass root growth is optimal in the temperature range of 50-65 degrees. Recent readings based on a soil temperature probe at 3.5 inches yield temperatures from 91.5 in the sun to 82.5 in the shade, which results in notably curtailed root growth.

Optimum temperatures for grass leaf growth range from 60-75 degrees. Outside of that range, we are trying to protect what we have. Mowing at the highest setting does that by protecting the crown of the grass plant from which grass leaves, stems, and secondary roots emerge.

Root system depth, plant species, its overall health, soil conditions, and evaporation and transpiration rates determine how much you should water. How do you know how much to water? Simply walk on your lawn. If you leave no permanent footprints, and the grass springs back up, your lawn is likely okay.

A healthy root system requires oxygen. Too much water reduces soil oxygen, causing root deterioration. We recommend at least yearly aeration which improves absorption of water and nutrients as well as increases air circulation in the root zone.

Fungus thrives on high temperatures and high humidity. Over watering feeds the issue. Water infrequently and deeply, in the early morning hours. Mow with a sharp blade at a height of 3 to 3.5 inches. Overseed in the fall with disease resistant cultivars.

While cool season grasses struggle now, weeds thrive. That is why you see outbreaks of crabgrass as the summer wears on. Areas along curbs, driveways, and thin turf are notoriously susceptible. Overseed to reduce the areas in which crabgrass and other weeds can grow and mow high to shade out weeds.

In extreme heat, stay off of your lawns. Traffic just adds to the problems the turf is already experiencing. Cool season grasses will not look their best under these conditions. They will recover as our climate moderates. Thank you for your patience. Call us with any questions or concerns.



Reminders

1. Schedule turf renovations or aeration & seeding.
2. Schedule irrigation system review.
3. Apply insect and disease treatments to trees and shrubs.



The design and installation process can take time. With that in mind, consult our "Now Planning" feature as a guideline to ensure your outdoor living space is ready for your needs throughout the year. This feature will give you an idea of when your project may start if you started planning today, depending on its scope and size. Whether it be football parties or Thanksgiving gatherings, now is the time to plan!

Makes Cents!

When it comes to selling your home, you only get one chance to make a first impression. To put this in perspective, The Appraisal

Institute (AI), a global association of real estate appraisers, aptly compares the outside attractiveness of a property to how one dresses for a job interview. Not only can it affect the ability to sell a property, but it will also contribute to the home's value.

The AI makes the following suggestions when making [landscaping improvements](#), including those that are relatively [low-cost](#) :



Neighborhood Standards: Curb appeal includes all aspects of your lawn, landscape and outdoor living space, as well as the neighborhood standards. Remulch beds, add flower pots, or edge the lawn for quick updates.



Lawn Maintenance: According to a 2016 [survey](#) by the National Association of Landscape Professionals and the National Association of Realtors, proper lawn maintenance can have more than a 300 percent cost recovery.



Native Plants: Plants native to our area typically grow well and may save you time and money with maintenance. The [OPPD Arboretum](#) is a local resource to see trees and shrubs in person that are recommended for our area.



Use Perennials: Perennials have various sizes, textures, and colors and they may be enjoyed for many years with the proper care.

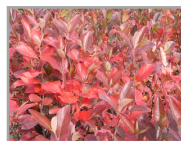


Plant Trees: Trees may not only add value to your home because of aesthetic appeal, they also provide environmental benefits such as reducing energy consumption and soil runoff and improving air quality. According to [the U.S. Department of Energy](#), depending on a variety of factors, some trees may save up to 25 percent of a typical home's energy use. Be sure to see our Ask the Arborist article, "What are the benefits of planting trees?"

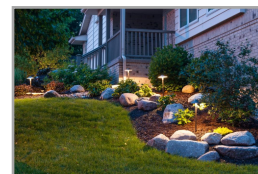


Landscaping Lighting: Remember, house hunters also look at houses at night. Lighting can be used to highlight features of your home or landscape as well as adds to the security of your home.

CM's can plan, install, and maintain your lawn and landscape so you can concentrate on the many other aspects of selling your home. But then again, why wait until you are selling your home when you can to your enjoyment now? Whether you are soon-to-be buyers or sellers or even if you are staying in your home, these maintenance items and upgrades make sense.



Chokeberry, fall





Ask The Arborist

What are the benefits of planting trees in my landscape?

We know trees create oxygen through photosynthesis, provide food and shelter for wildlife, offer lumber for limitless uses, and so much more. But how can trees be helpful to the average suburban home or business owner? Here are a few benefits to consider while the season of tree planting quickly approaches.

Environmental: Not only do they protect from some of Mother Nature's harshest weather, but trees also reduce storm water runoff, improve soil erosion, and even work as an oxygen pumping machine for all those who might live in a highly polluted area. Now that's a breath of fresh air.

Aesthetic: Do you have an area of your landscape that is just missing that something special? A tree can be the cure! You can even plant a few ornamental trees to enhance an area. Crabapples, pears, and cherry trees are just a few of Omaha's favorite flowering specimens.

Economic: Some folks are unaware of the economic values of trees. Calculating the value of urban trees has been a popular area of interest in the past decade. If your house is built in an area with high winds and intense sunlight, trees properly placed can save on energy costs. Trees can also enhance the value of residential and business properties. Studies have shown that trees play a huge role in attracting visitors, businesses, and new residents. The shade of a great canopy can reduce the maintenance on materials that might be easily degraded by heat, such as pavement or siding. This [tree benefit calculator](#) provides a basic approximation the benefits a specific tree may add to your property.

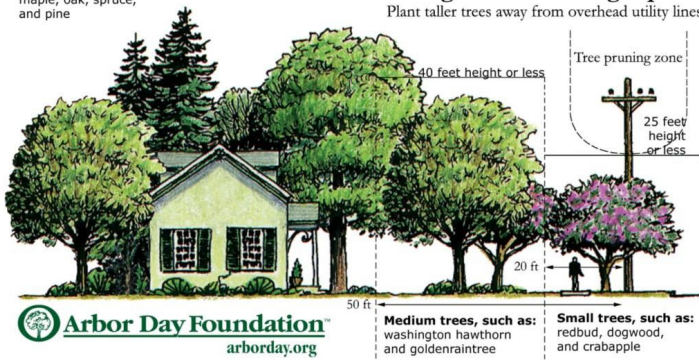
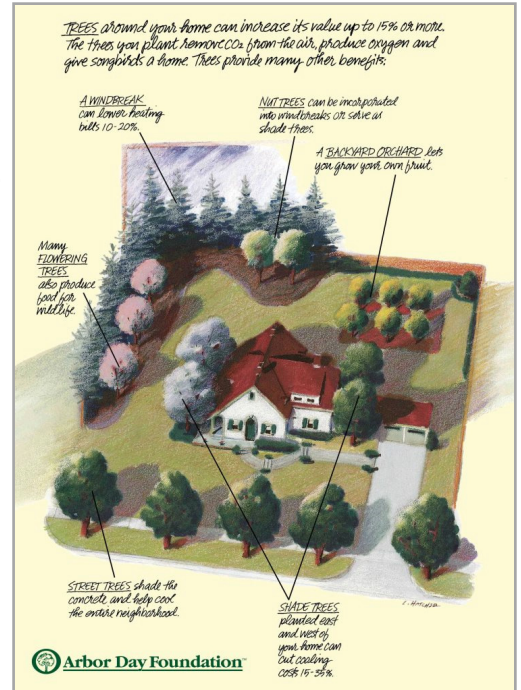
Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place
Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

A carefully selected and placed tree now can pay dividends in the future.

Whatever your reason may be for an investment in a new tree, be sure that you choose the right tree for the right place. Be sure to visit our blog for more information about our shady friends.

Contact CM's to select the right tree for you!



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