



Grass Roots

www.cmcustomlawn.com

4151 S. 84 St. Omaha, NE 68127 402.738.1718

Volume 2017 Issue 4

Turf Talk 2017.01

Predictably there was no shortage of unpredictable

weather in February and March. February had us digging out the shorts and t-shirts and March put us right back into winter coats.

About this time of year, we receive inquiries about when we will start to fertilize. We are starting our first round of fertilizer the first week of April. We apply a pre-emergent with a small amount of nitrogen for our first application. For the pre-emergent to work on crabgrass, the **soil temperatures**, rather than the ambient temperatures, need to be sustained in the low to mid-fifties for crabgrass to germinate. The further in advance of those temperatures you apply pre-emergents, the less effective they will be.

We are fortunate to have three pre-emergent chemistries from which to choose; therefore, we are using a different product this year as it is important to change chemistries periodically to avoid pesticide resistance issues.

We rarely power-rake in the spring and most often we reserve power-raking for turf renovations. In spring, weed germination is high and power raking may leave a yard especially vulnerable to weed infestation.

If you are interested in seeding, fall is the best time. Spring seedings are challenging due to a variety of reasons including irrigation, the need to wait for soil temperatures to warm, germination periods, and how fast we transition from spring to summer. However, we do spring seedings to repair damaged turf.

Thank you again for placing your trust in us. Please call if you ever have questions.



Reminders

1. Schedule Sprinkler Turn On with CM's.
2. Sharpen mower blades.
3. Mow at 3" or higher.
4. Apply pre-emergent weed control to landscape beds once soil temperatures reach 50-55 degrees.
5. Begin treating flowering crab apples for cedar apple rust.

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 rain sensor, **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.



As part of CM's commitment to efficient irrigation systems and being good stewards of our natural resources, CM's installs the [Hunter Wireless Rain-Clik Sensor](#). While some rain sensors shut off an irrigation system only after a pre-determined amount of rain accumulates,

the Hunter Wireless Rain-Clik Sensor is designed to shut the system off before that accumulation occurs, saving you money on your utility bill and saving our natural resource.

What is the next step you ask? [Contact us](#) to indicate you would like CM's to install a Hunter Wireless Rain-Clik 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.

Now Available: Smart Controllers!

If a rain sensor appeals to you, you may also be interested installing a [Hydrawise Pro-HC Controller](#). The Hydrawise Pro-HC will not only work in conjunction with the Wireless Rain-Clik Sensor and adjusts based on predicted weather, it also provides automated monitoring of your system to quickly detect and address problems that may arise, such as wiring or power issues. This "smart controller" is web-based for convenient system operation and management from anywhere using a web browser, Apple or Android app. [Contact us](#) for more information.





Ask The Arborist

I have a new tree. What should I be doing to give it the best chances to do well?

When considering this question, the proverb, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” comes to mind. There are many steps a tree owner can take when a tree is young to promote its health and growth, and in turn save you money by reducing expensive “cures” later in the tree’s life.

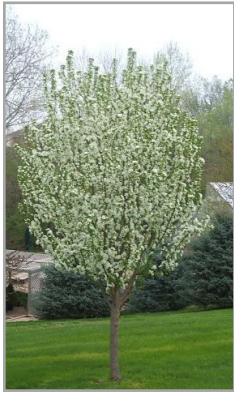
Fertilize

Fertilize in the spring and the fall to ensure your trees have adequate nutrient levels for both. The initial process of pushing new leaves in the spring takes an enormous amount of energy and depletes the trees reserves from the winter. CM’s lance injected fertilizer is applied with a pressurized system that forces the liquid into the soil at a depth of about 5 inches, which is where most of the tree’s feeder roots are. In addition to the benefit of adding nutrients to the soil, our pressurized application method aerates the soil at the same time, providing much needed oxygen to the root system and combating soil compaction in our heavy clay soils.

Pruning

We recommend pruning trees when they are younger, 15 feet tall or less, to essentially “train” the tree. Co-dominant leaders, poor branch attachment, and crossing branches are a few examples of structural defects that will likely lead to large limb failure and decay. These issues can be dangerous and pricey to take care of when dealing with a mature tree, but there is less risk when the tree is young.

A tree pruned by a professional arborist will have improved structural stability and aesthetics, reducing maintenance costs and corrective pruning. Pruning trees while they are young will increase the tree’s longevity by avoiding large pruning cuts to a mature tree. Think of a cut or an incision you have experienced. Smaller cuts and incisions heal faster with less chance of disease, infection, and scarring. The same is true for trees. Check out our blog for more information about how trees heal.



Spring Snow Crabapple

Tree wraps

Extreme temperatures or hungry bunnies and squirrels can cause permanent damage to the tree’s trunk during the winter months. Extreme fluctuations between day and night time temperatures can cause frost cracks on the trunk of the tree. If we have temperatures below freezing at night followed by a sunny, mild day, the bark can split when the sun heats up the south and/or west side of the tree. This can cause the bark to expand too quickly. The wound caused by frost cracks can make the tree susceptible to disease or insect infestation.

Bunnies and squirrels like to snack on tree bark during the winter when food is sparse. They particularly like younger trees and trees with softer bark like Crabapple trees.

Using tree wrap can protect a tree from harmful temperature fluctuations and animal damage.

Research indicates the healthy trees are better able to withstand diseases and insects than those in a weakened state. Being proactive may be just what the doctor ordered.



Contact a CM’s Arborist!



E-mail: admin@cmscustowlawn.com
Phone: 402.738.1718
Fax: 402.614.2771

CM’s
4151 S. 84 St.
Omaha, NE 68127